

Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association

2014-2015 Annual Report



Annual Business Meeting
April 18, 2015
First Unitarian Church of Orlando
Orlando, Florida

**Florida District
Unitarian Universalist Association**

Annual Reports • 2014-2015

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Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association

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Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association

www.uuasouthernregion.org

Lead Executive: Reverend Kenn Hurto, khurto@uua.org

**Annual Meeting, Florida District
April 18, 2015
First Unitarian Church of Orlando**

Call to order	Margie Manning, President
Chalice lighting	Harvey Heckes, Vice President
Confirmation of quorum	Sarah Ritzmann, Acting Secretary
Introduction of Parliamentarian	Kimberly Bowles, First Unitarian Church of Orlando

Acceptance of 2014 minutes

Leadership reports

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidents report• Congregational Life staff | Margie Manning
Maggie Lovins, Kathy McGowan |
|---|--|

Action items

- Proposed budget for 2015-2016 for the Southern Region Al Tweedy, Treasurer
- Election of Florida representatives to inaugural Council of Elders
The Florida District Board of Trustees nominates Margie Manning and Sarah Ritzmann
- Election of Officers and Trustees (nominated by Leadership Development Committee)
For Vice President: Sarah Ritzmann, Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
For Treasurer: Rev. Janet Onnie, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County
For Secretary: Rev. Amy Kindred, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
For Trustee: Roger Brown, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples
Continuing in office as President: Margie Manning, Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater
- Bylaw waiver request for Leadership Development Committee elections
Nominees were not sought for the following positions, anticipating the likelihood of the dissolution of the District at this meeting. Should the vote to dissolve the District fail, delegates authorize the Board of Trustees to appoint these positions:
 - Leadership Development Committee, term expires 2018 (2 positions)
 - Leadership Development Committee (Youth), term expires 2018
 - Leadership Development Committee, remaining one year of a term that expires 2016
- Vote for Dissolution of the Florida District

District awards

Installation of elected leaders and recognition of service

New business (as may properly come before the body)

Adjournment

**UUA Florida District Annual Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2014**

Call to Order

Ila Klion, president, Board of Trustees (BOT), called the meeting to order at 9:10 am

Chalice Lighting

Harvey Heckes, vice president, BOT

Confirmation of Quorum

Margie Manning, secretary, BOT

With 57 delegates from 23 congregations, a quorum was achieved.

Acceptance of 2013 minutes

Motion to approve – Ginger Abraham, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

Seconded – Joan Lund, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Motion carried by voice vote

Action Items

- Adoption of Southern Region UUA Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget

Motion to approve – Al Tweedy, treasurer, BOT

Seconded – Jeremy Ritzmann, Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Motion carried by voice vote with 6 abstentions

- Election of Florida District Board and Leadership Development Committee Members

The Leadership Development Committee moved approval of the following slate of candidates:

- Margie Manning, Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater – Board President, 3 year term (2017)
- Harvey Heckes, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers – Board Vice President, 3 year term (2017)
- Chris Reid, University Unitarian Universalist Society of Orlando – Board Secretary, 1 year of a 3 year term scheduled to end 2015)

Seconded - Rita Maier, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach

Motion carried by voice vote

Derrick Mustelie, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, nominated Jeremy Ritzmann, Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church, to serve the two remaining years of a 3 year term ending in 2016 on the Leadership Development Committee. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

Gene Pizzo, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, nominated Candy Gale, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, for a 3 year term ending in 2017 on the Leadership Development Committee. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

Leadership Reports

- Maggie Lovins, Congregational Life Staff, UUA Southern Region
- Ila Klion, President, UUA Florida District BOT

District Awards

John De Wolf Hurt Levity Award – Marvin Ray Baumel, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami

Media Award – Joyce Levi, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach

Media Award – Dick Smith & Brad Jenkins, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

Excellence in Religious Education – Dan Dickinson, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami

Jim and June Barrett Social Justice Award – Jo Anne Engelbert, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine

Clarence R. Skinner Award – Rev. Amy Carol Webb, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Clarence R. Skinner Award – Rev. Jack Ford, nominated by Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Unsung Hero Award – Salvatore P. Salorenzo, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

Lifetime Achievement Award – Joan Lund, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Installation of elected leaders

Meeting adjourned, 9:40 am

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Manning, secretary, Florida District BOT

District Presidents' Report – Feb. 18, 2015

The past 12 months have been transformational for the Southern Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Drawing inspiration and wisdom from the words of those who came before us to shape the revolutionary ideas that emerged from the 2010 Orlando Platform – with roots in the 1648 Cambridge Platform – we are in the process of implementing structures that match our theology.

Those structures include:

- **Enhanced linkage**, including more frequent and purposeful communication, between congregations and our Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees, to ensure a stronger voice in governance;
- Establishment of a **Regional Advisory Council**, to provide formal and regular discussion between lay leaders, religious professionals, Southern Region staff and our UUA Director of Congregational Life, to ensure our operations and programs are serving our needs;
- Forming and strengthening **Clusters** and **Networks**, made up of congregations working in covenant with other congregations with a shared geography or shared interests;
- Designating **Elders** – wise leaders of any age – who are deeply grounded in Unitarian Universalism and who, in shared ministry with our staff and other religious professionals, help make congregational connections.

In implementing these structures, the four District boards and our UUA Congregational Life staff look to develop deep relationships that lay a foundation and can serve as a model for a strengthened Unitarian Universalism among our more than 30,000 members in 218 congregations in 12 states, Mexico and the Virgin Islands. The relationships that we have cultivated already and expect to grow transcend geography, and provide a blueprint for how our faith can make a difference in the world.

Discovering the value of new connections led to re-evaluating historic relationships and the roles of governing boards in each of our Districts. We previously ended co-employment of our staff and moved to a consolidated budget for the region, leaving few governing responsibilities. We put aside our own district ends so as not to duplicate our UUA ends, which are developed by trustees we all elect at General Assemblies.

Since a September 2013 meeting at The Mountain of the four boards, staff, our UUA Moderator Jim Key and our UUA Director of Congregational Life Rev. Scott Tayler, we have spent much time in discussions that affirm the importance of Districts as collaborative ministries pulling congregations together. Now, we are proposing our congregations move forward with the next step.

At each of our four District Annual Assemblies this April, we will be asking for our congregations' approval to dissolve our District governance.

Should our congregations approve dissolving District governance, here's what we envision the Southern Region of the UUA will look like going forward:

- Congregations will recognize their own elders, who can serve at a congregational, cluster, regional or even national level. Elders can serve Unitarian Universalism on boards or councils, as consultant, teachers or small group leaders. They can represent the larger Association at ceremonial events, joining as one strong body to evangelize the South for Unitarian Universalism. A regional Council of Elders working in shared ministry with staff will help congregations recognize and celebrate elders and identify opportunities for service. Elderhood provides greater opportunities for our members to deepen their understanding of covenant and faith and enter into shared ministry.
- Congregations will think beyond their own walls and join with others of similar size, or in close geographic proximity, or facing similar challenges and opportunities, to work for justice, to worship, and to create new paths for spiritual exploration and growth. The basis for this behavior can be found in the idea, expressed many ways by many faiths, that we love our neighbors as ourselves, and the understanding that we are stronger together than we are alone.
- Our Unitarian Universalist Association will manage the financial administration of our funds through a restricted funds process and a Covenant of Understanding, defining the rights and responsibilities of both our UUA and the Southern Region. An interim Fiduciary Oversight Committee will work with UUA staff to provide oversight in finances and staffing levels for two years.
- Our Southern Region Staff will work in shared ministry with congregations, elders, clusters and other constructs that serve to further the faith.

- Our UUA Board will be accountable to the member congregations of the Southern Region through congregational participation and voting at the UUA General Assembly, with our UUA Trustees conducting deliberate and regular Linkage outreach to congregations in the Region. This Linkage work already has begun. UUA Trustees and designated volunteers conducted lengthy one-on-one interviews with lay leaders and ministers of 100 congregations about how we gather at General Assembly and how we govern as an Association, with additional input sought through an online survey distributed nationwide. Trustees will use feedback received in the process they have undertaken to ensure governance is more democratic and effective.
- Our UUA Director of Congregational Life will call on an advisory council of eight regional leaders to provide input to the Southern Region staff about program priorities and goal setting and to assist in assessment of programming impact.

The work we do is grounded in covenant, deep promises to each other made in faith, which has enhanced the efforts of our District boards, our District Presidents and our Congregational Life staff as we agreed on how we wanted to be together.

Our four District presidents, who met by telephone bi-weekly, began our gatherings with check-ins so that we could better understand each other, including how deeply the desire to grow Unitarian Universalism ran through our core; that imbued us with the trust to call – and be called –back into covenant when we got off course.

Our District Presidents also met face-to-face two times during the past year – joining the Congregational Life staff for part of their retreat in Austin, Texas in September 2014, and at the District President’s Association in Boston, Mass. in November 2014.

Many of our District Board Members also built relationships across geographic lines as they worked on Regional task forces, focused on Elders, the Democratic Process and Communications.

Initiatives specific to the Florida District include:

- At the Florida President’s Convocation in, July 2014, 14 congregational presidents came together to create connections, share ideas, and build leadership skills.

- We consolidated Florida dedicated and reserved funds with those from other Southern Region districts to establish region-wide fund accounts for leadership development, disaster relief and staff development/continuing education.
- Florida board members visited with members of the Beacon Youth Group for a question-and-answer discussion. We spent a great deal of time in discernment about the Southern Region Youth Safety Policy and in our fiduciary role, we communicated with Ministers, Directors of Religious Education and congregational presidents about what we learned.
- On behalf of our UUA Board of Trustees, Florida Board President Margie Manning interviewed four Florida congregations about how Unitarian Universalists gather at General Assembly and how we govern.

Florida District trustees have had an opportunity to experience the regional connections that we now expect will benefit all congregations and Unitarian Universalist in our District.

District trustees participated in a joint meeting of the District boards in late January, to get a first look at and provide input into the information we presented during a series of webinars in February and March. In these webinars, we outlined a vision for how the Region will function going forward and we listened deeply to the questions and wisdom of our lay leaders, religious professionals and congregational members.

With the proposed regionalization of our four Districts, we will be able to better use our time, talent and treasure to grow recognition and reach of Unitarian Universalism throughout the South, making a faithful difference in our world.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Manning, President, Florida District

DeAnn Peterson, President, Mid-South District

Denise Rimes, President, Southeast District

Mark Anderson, Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference of the UUA

On behalf of our District Boards of Trustees



Southern
Region



Report of the Lead Executive for the Southern Region – Unitarian Universalist Association

The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto
Spring 2015

We Are Building a New Way

Envisioning the New Way:

In his 1852 novel, *The Blithedale Romance*, Unitarian Nathaniel Hawthorne recollected his experience some years earlier as part of Brook Farm, an experiment in utopian, communal living west of Boston. He trenchantly noted:

We were of all creeds and opinions, and generally tolerant of all.... We were... agreed as to the inexpediency of lumbering along with the old system any farther. As to what should be substituted, there was much less unanimity.

Over five years ago, District Leaders, inspired by then UUA Moderator Gini Courter and our current Moderator, Jim Key, were challenged to look back nearly fifty years and to ask whether Districts were the best way for our UUA to serve congregations. In December 2010, nearly 60 Board leaders from the Florida, Mid-South, Southeast and Southwestern Districts, plus field and UUA staff, met to consider the question. They agreed that the old system was no longer serving us well. They crafted the *Orlando Platform*,¹ a blueprint calling for cross-District collaboration as a substitute. Soon thereafter, the field staff began serving the entire Region and the District Presidents met to coordinate the implementation of a collaborative ministry.

In September 2013, the four Boards² and staff met again to review what had been learned. All agreed that reducing the size of the Boards and the sharing of staff and programs proved economically more efficient and opened ways to a more broadly-shared ministry. No longer constrained by District boundaries, the focus shifted to congregation-to-congregation sharing based on geographical clusters, to creating new affinity-interest based configurations independent of location,³ and to state-wide networks of social witness. Our small staff offered their talents throughout the Region while each remained in the role of “primary contact” for 30-35 of our 216 congregations.

In the midst of these changes, the Boards (because we are bold!) agreed to a request from the UUA *Stewardship & Development Office* to pilot a project named **GIFT** (*Generously Investing in Tomorrow*),⁴ GIFT does away with separate appeals for Fair Share gifts for the District and the UUA Program Fund. Instead, a single **Ask** supports both our UUA and the Region. GIFT relies not on a membership “head tax;” rather, it asks for a percentage (7%)⁵ of a congregation’s operating expenses. Although it has been a challenge for some (not all) of our congregations to increase their combined District/UUA giving to that level, all agree this is a more equitable and covenantal approach to funding our overall ministries.

Now Is the Time for a New Way:

Now, this month, the Boards ask congregational delegates to boldly craft a new way of being together — as a single, cultural and program ministry known as the **Southern Region — UUA**. Five years of reflection, trial (and a few errors), and trust-building have led the four Boards unanimously to recommend the disincorporation of Districts as governance/business entities.⁶

Over many months, your Boards have crafted a **Covenant of Understanding**⁷ with our UUA that captures the spirit and intent of a new way of being together and providing services to our congregations going forward.

None thinks we have utopia, but we have great faith in a new way that:

- Calls for our lay leaders to work together as wise leaders, guided by our UUA Congregational Life Consultants and a *Council of Elders*.⁸ These “elders” will leverage staff capacity to strengthen the formation of clusters as the primary means of inter-congregational cooperation.
- Ensures direct connection with our staff and our UUA through a new *Advisory Council*,⁹ with lay and religious professional volunteers from each District. They will advise the UUA Director of Congregational Life, *Scott Tayler*, and the Region’s Lead Executive to ensure the efficacy of our field services, the responsiveness of staff to congregational needs, and to assist the UUA Board of Trustees in their linkage work.
- Makes all our staff UUA employees with full benefits.
- Transfers business operations (financial and personnel management) to our UUA.
- Secures the Region’s assets in a General Reserve fund whose purpose will be to support the ministries of the Southern Region. Each District will appoint a representative to a Fiduciary Oversight Committee to ensure our interests.

The hope, the promise of these recommendations is to provide more talent, volunteer and paid, to nurture our congregation’s well being and to increase the impact of Unitarian Universalism in the Region. Full details of the plans, including a *Frequently Asked Questions* document, are on our web site.

I urge your support of the Board’s recommendations.


Southern Region Finances

The Region’s financial reports are reported elsewhere by the Treasurers. The bottom line for FY2013-14: we had predicted a modest deficit but ended the year ahead of where we began.

	FY13/14 Actual	FY13/14 Budget	Variance in \$	Variance from expectation
Income	\$1,203,653	\$1,267,210	-\$63,557	95%
Expense	<u>\$1,154,247</u>	<u>\$1,292,363</u>	<u>-\$138,115</u>	89%
Net	\$ 49,406	\$ -25,153	\$74,558	

Our surplus was mostly the result of tight cost controls throughout the year. We were not surprised but still disappointed that the first year of GIFT yielded ~\$31,000 less than we had hoped.¹⁰ For this year, FY2014-15, we have planned for a balanced budget of \$1,219,154 income and expenses.

FY2013/14 was the first year of a truly integrated budget (rather than four separate budgets). The Region’s finances were professionally reviewed by an auditing firm in the fall of 2014; these reviews indicated our books accounted for all monies.



As of 31 March, 2015, our preliminary Balance Sheet indicates total assets of \$528,500 and total liabilities of \$333,841. The District Boards have directed the staff to merge or liquidate various internal liabilities (totaling approximately \$112,963 at this time) to simplify our structure. With approval of the SWC's delegates, the SWC endowment will be transferred to U-Bar-U. Funds we have been holding for other Unitarian Universalists groups will be disbursed back to those entities. Chalice Lighter funds currently on hand will be disbursed to recipient congregations or credited to upcoming calls. All remaining assets/equity as of 6/30/2015 will be invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund, with the caveat that those monies may be used only for Southern Region programming.

Next year's draft budget, FY2015/16, anticipates \$1,215,500 for income and expense. This assumes our overhead will decrease by about \$30,000 with the transfer of our financial operations to the UUA. Those savings will be re-allocated to new program ministries

Each February 1st, congregations file certification details to our UUA. This year's data again note that the Southern Region is growing modestly: 1.2% to 30,818; this represents a 13% growth rate over ten years. Regrettably, our UUA totals declined for the fifth straight year, to 156,620. Children's Religious Education enrollment reflects the same overall pattern.

Southern Region Field Staff Team

Our professional field staff provide most of the direct UUA service to our congregations. The team's work is guided by the UUA Board's *Ends*, the Congregational Life group's "*Three I's — Innovation, Impact, & Interconnection*," District Boards' oversight, and our team's work plan. All members serve the Region as needed. For the first time in three years, we have had a stable field staff complement of seven consultants.


With *Glenn Johnson's* retirement, we closed the SED office last summer; thus, all four District office operations now have been brought together into the Orlando, Florida office, superbly managed by *Jessica Curren*. A huge benefit of consolidation has been up-grading *Kathy Charles* to just over ½ time as our meeting logistics planner and *Christine Purcell* full-time as our Communications/IT Specialist. A staff roster is below.

Our Region's field and administrative staff serve two overall goals: to strengthen Unitarian Universalism in the South, and to provide leadership development to congregations and emerging "beyond congregation" networks. In addition to direct work with leaders and on-site engagements, the staff offer a number of events, usually with a host congregation or at a cluster gathering, or at "camp" settings.

These are our every year offerings:

- The Dwight Brown, the Southern Unitarian Universalist, and, with 2015, Smaller Congregation *Leadership Experiences*, typically, are held in August.
- Each July, we offer four *Convocations* of Presidents, one in each District.
- Additionally, we offer "*Toolbox*" weekend trainings in the Fall and Spring
- *Start-up workshops* with Boards and new professional religious leaders take place throughout the year.

The UUA Congregational Life field staff are "deep generalists," with very broad capacities. Each year, there are emerging needs and opportunities for which we provide one day or weekend events — covering everything from worship to youth programming, from stewardship to board retreats, from conflict management to social witness, and so on.



At a more personal level, we provide consultation for congregations facing transitions in religious professionals, for congregations in conflict, and direct support to religious professionals and lay leaders. Routinely, we teach best practices for stewardship training and consultation, growth management, governance and congregational assessment. The staff team presents at cluster gatherings, supports the District Boards, and fulfills assignments from the UUA.

When we cannot do something, we most certainly know where to find someone who can. In addition to our team, we have many *Smart Church* trained consultants and other UUA staff to call upon. So, congregational leaders, we urge your participation in the many program offerings around the Region. Please, call often and long before you think you need help (particularly around conflict).

All this detail serves one goal: Strengthening our work together. Since our origins, our faith has been a reforming ministry, ever seeking a better way to promote human dignity, respect for persons and our world.

In a time of great change and high anxiety, too often, we learn of horrid injustice arising out of greed for power, blatant hatred, racial bigotry or fear of difference. The call of our times often feels daunting.

However, we are a bold people. We have, can, and will stand on the side of Love. Thank you all, good leaders for your witness and dedication. With deep appreciation for our congregations, their leaders, and our shared ministries, I thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Kenn

The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto
Lead Executive, Southern Region — UUA

The Congregational Life Southern Region Staff Team 2015

Natalie Briscoe, Austin, TX ♦
nbriscoe@uua.org (south and west Texas)

Kathy Charles, Houston, TX ♦
kcharles@uua.org (event planning, logistics)

Jessica Curren, Orlando, FL ♦
jcurren@uua.org (member services, financial administration)

Connie Goodbread, Palm Harbor, FL ♦
cgoodbread@uua.org (southern Florida, South Carolina)

The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto, Ft Myers, FL ♦
khurto@uua.org (team lead, large congregations of Region)

Maggie Lovins, Pensacola, FL ♦
mlovins@uua.org (Georgia, northern Florida)

Kathy McGowan, Durham, NC ♦
kmcgowan@uua.org (North Carolina, southern Virginia)

Christine Purcell, Knoxville, TN ♦
cpurcell@uua.org
(communications, website)

The Reverend Carlton Smith, Holly Springs, MS ♦
csmith@uua.org
(Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama)

The Reverend Susan Smith, Shreveport, LA ♦
ssmith@uua.org (northern Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas)



- 1 The full text of the *Orlando Platform* can be found at:
<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/resources/orlandoplatform.html>
- 2 The grand experiment set in motion in Orlando moved forward thanks to the dedication of your Boards of Trustees from each District. Lest we be remiss and convey that the current state of affairs suddenly emerged, I call your attention to the roster of past leaders. Untold hours and immense talent have made possible moving out of an antiquated and lumbering system. With gratitude, here's the list of past leaders:
<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/gratitude.html>
- 3 The advance of audio & visual teleconferencing has opened up new ways of relating. Affinity-clusters are composed of congregational leaders with similar interests or needs. A most successful, working model is the routine meeting of congregational Presidents from our largest congregations. Statewide legislative ministry is another. The staff will support bringing together those groups who have common aspirations regardless of where they are physically located.
- 4 **GIFT** details, including answers to that pesky “how do I calculate operating expenses,” will be found here: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/stewardshipgift.html>. We have been immeasurably supported in the “GIFT roll-out” by UUA Congregational Stewardship Network consultant *Bill Clontz*, of Alexandria, VA. See his excellent counsel about GIFT and Stewardship in general on our website at:
<http://stewardshipfortherestofus.blogspot.com>
- 5 It was not a careful study, but I did a quick perusal of other denominations. I found many using the same approach as GIFT, with Asks ranging from 5% (Disciples) to 10% (Episcopal, Methodists).
- 6 The Boards emphasize that going out of business does not mean the end of Districts. Each of these historic groups has a unique culture, identity, and ways of relating. The intent is to lift up and affirm those particularities in program and service delivery as time goes along.
- 7 The **Covenant of Understanding** spells out in detail how transferring District operations into the UUA management structure will work. It seeks to be clear while adaptable to what we learn during implementation. Our UUA, founded in 1961, has never done this before; hence, we expect the spirit and intent to be the most important part of this, with an understanding that things may not work quite as envisioned in the document.
Readers may like to know that this *Covenant* has been approved by all four District Boards, by me, the Region’s Lead Executive, and UUA Board Moderator *Jim Key*. It also has been vetted and approved by our UUA Administration — including President *Peter Morales*, Chief Operating Office, *Harlan Limpert*, Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer, *Tim Brennan*, Comptroller *Karen Wheeler*, Director of Human Resources, *Rob Molla*, and Director of Congregational Life, *Scott Tayler*.
- 8 An explanation of the Council of Elders and how it will work is found here:
<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/resources/pathtoeldership.html>
- 9 The Region’s Advisory Council team will be staffed by:
The Reverend Ann Marie Alderman, Greensboro, NC Erin Sullivan, Austin, TX
Jill Austin, Murfreesboro, TN The Reverend Mark Walz, Dallas, TX
Jennifer Carver, Tallahassee, FL The Reverend Mark Ward, Asheville, NC
Marguerite Mills, Nashville, TN The Reverend Deanna Vandiver, New Orleans, LA
- 10 It should be noted in passing that our current income expectations reflect no increases in District or Regional funding since 2008 — the year of the Great Recession. District Fair Share requests (ranging from \$19 to \$23/member) through 2012 had not been increased since 2006. The 7% **GIFT Ask** reflects the historic overall support of the four Districts; it does not include any increase in expectations. That we have been able to do this results directly from the efficiencies of scale found in the move toward a Regional structure.





Southern
Region



Southern Region Program Highlights 2014 – 2015

Our four Districts had a surprising number of events in this last year. While not everything, here are some highlights of our collaborative ministries:

Regional

- Presidential Convocations
- Two Leadership Experiences
- Support & consultation to the Boards regarding Regionalization
 - Working group task forces: *Communications, Democratic Process, Elderhood, Fiduciary Oversight & Governance*
- Completion of *Elderhood Council Design*
- Appointment of *Regional Advisory Council*

The Florida District

Ministerial Transitions

- Venice — Reverend Khleber M.Zandt
- Naples — Reverend Tony Fisher
- Buckman Bridge, Orange Park — Reverend Jack Ford
- Marion County — Reverend Janet Onnie
- Jacksonville — Phillip Baber, Consulting

Cluster & Other Program Events

- Bradenton — Unitarian Universalist & Growth workshop
- Fort Myers — Stewardship workshop
- Stuart — Mission & Covenant workshop
- 1st Orlando, FL — “Freeing the Giant Within” workshop
- St. Augustine — Evolution weekend
- Annual Choral Festival
- Annual Women’s Retreat
- West Central Revival

Board Policy work

- Development of Regional Youth Safety Policy

Milestones

- Marion County, FL — 30th Anniversary
- Tallahassee, FL — 11 of 22 member congregations participated in the 8th Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry in Florida hold Legislative Action Day

Thanks to our Board members

- Margie Manning, Harvey Heckes, Chris Reid, Sarah Ritzman, Al Tweedy*

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The Southeast District

Ministerial Transitions

Chapel Hill, NC — Reverend Thom Belote
Beaufort, SC — Reverend Kevin Tarsa
Glen Allen, VA — Reverend Amy Russell
Brunswick, GA — Reverend Jane Page, consulting
Asheville, NC — Reverend Tandy Scheffler, ordination
Raleigh, NC — Reverend Mary Frances Comer, ordination

Cluster & Other Program Events

Eno River, Durham, NC — Living Legacy Project "Now Is the Time" Racial Justice Conference
Raleigh, NC — 2nd Mass Moral March on the Capitol
The Mountain, Highlands, NC — (SUULE) Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience
Spartenburg, SC — Unitarian Universalist Leadership
Glen Allen, VA — Tidewater Cluster "Generations Working Together" workshop

Milestones

Providence, RI — Jim Key, Beaufort, SC, leads first UUA General Assembly
Richmond, VA — Dedication after major renovations

In Loving Memory

Norfolk, VA — Death of Reverend Jennifer Slade

Thanks to our Board members

Denise Rimes, Peter Kandis, Martin Bauer, Kathia Shiba, Larry Meisner


The Mid-South District

Ministerial Transitions

Tuscaloosa — Reverend Fred Hammond
Montgomery — Reverend Lyn Hopkins
Atlanta — Reverend Duncan Teague, ordained
Metro North, Atlanta, GA — Reverend Kim Palmer, ordained
Dahlonega & Marietta, GA — Reverend Charlotte Arsenault, ordained
Macon, GA — Reverend Cassandra Howe

Cluster & Other Program Events

Bay County, Panama City, FL — "Play-Shop" on LGBTQ issues
Oxford, MO — Living Legacy Project & College of Social Justice 50th Anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer
Westside Knoxville, TN — Compassionate Communications workshop
Decatur, GA — LREDA Conference
Marietta, GA — "Stewardship for Unitarian Universalists"
Gallant, AL — 1st Multi-Track weekend: Stewardship, Faith development in Film, & for youth, 'Gathering in Gaia's Garden' workshops
Birmingham, AL — Arc of Justice Conference, 50th Anniversary of Selma to Montgomery Marches
1st Church, New Orleans, LA — Conference hosted by Center for Ethical Living, DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural)



Ministries) and ARE (Allies for Racial Equity). "Healing the Waters:
Decolonizing Our Communities and the Climate Movement"

Congregational Celebrations and Milestones

Clarksville, TN — New sanctuary
Tuscaloosa, AL — 60th Anniversary
Oak Ridge, TN — New building
Huntsville, AL — New building
Marietta, GA — New building
Athens, GA — 60th Anniversary

In Loving Memory

Birmingham, AL — Death of Dorrie Fuchs

Thanks to our Board members

DeAnn Peterson, Jill Austin, Bob Day, Christine Freeman, Natalie Bigord

The Southwestern Conference

Ministerial Transitions

1st Church, Dallas, TX — Reverend Beth Dana
Live Oak, Austin, TX — Reverend Joanna Crawford called to Live Oak UU Church
UUFellowship, Houston, TX & Thoreau Woods, Huntsville, TX — Rev. Tony Lorenzen
1st Church, Austin, TX — Reverend Chris Jimmerson, ordination
Fayetteville, AR — Reverend James Parrish
Georgetown, TX — Reverend Mark Skrabacz
Corpus Christi, TX — Reverend Phil Douglas, retires

Cluster & Other Program Events

Denton, TX — (DBLE) Dwight Brown Leadership Experience
Heart of Texas Cluster, Austin, TX — Extended Leadership Experience
Sequoia State Park, Hulbert, OK — (SWUUSI) Southwest UU Summer Institute
Glen Rose, TX — SWC Fall Conference, "Love Reaches Out"
Lubbock, TX — West Texas Cluster, Annual Gathering
Little Rock, AR — Arkansas Cluster initiates statewide legislative ministry
Oklahoma City, OK — Launch of new West OK Cluster
Austin, TX — OWL Training
Dallas, TX — NTUUC *Standing on the Side of Love* Conference

In Loving Memory

Amarillo, TX — Passing of Gary Shack, Long-Time Elder

Milestones

- Austin, TX — Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry Legislative Action Day involving 27 congregations.
- Benton County, AR — Applying for UUA Membership
- Turley, OK — The Welcome Table missional community now part of UUA pilot program for recognition of non-traditional Unitarian Universalist ministries

Thanks to our Board members

*Mark Anderson, Reverend Mark Walz, Gaye Webb, Lewis Morris, Patricia Withers,
Ben Ditmars, Audrey Peres*

**Southern Region UUA
Proposed Budget
July 2015 - June 2016**

	2014-2015 Budget	2015-2016 Proposed Budget
Income		
GIFT	574,483	570,000
UUA APF Grant	137,624	130,000
UUA APF Shared Staffing	349,047	357,000
Program Fees & Registrations	150,000	150,000
Congregational Consulting	6,000	7,500
Interest/Investment	1,000	0
Donations	1,000	1,000
Total Income	\$1,219,154	\$1,215,500
Expenses		
Administrative	12,400	9,500
Equipment & Maintenance	4,628	3,000
Insurance	6,000	0
Telecommunications	10,000	10,000
Bookkeeping, Technical & Web Services	52,700	25,000
Audit & Professional Services	7,000	10,000
Board, Governance & Transition/Legal	30,600	5,000
Stewardship	2,000	0
Admin Salaries, Benefits & Payroll Expense	146,214	150,000
Congregational Life Salaries & Benefits	663,313	675,000
Admin Professional Expense	10,000	12,000
Congregational Life Professional Expense	105,000	105,000
District Workshops & Programs	125,000	150,000
Program & Committee Expenses	9,000	21,000
Gifts & Caring, Program Grants	5,100	7,000
Congregational Peer Consulting	30,199	33,000
Total Expenses	\$1,219,154	\$1,215,500
Net Income	\$0	\$0

**Southern Region UUA
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2014**

CURRENT ASSETS

Bank Accounts

SWC Checking	38,644.07
MSD Checking	22,918.64
MSD Chalice Lighter Checking	1,006.54
FLD Checking	18,446.93
FLD Money Market	112,598.59
SR Checking	300,908.08
Total Bank Accounts	\$494,522.85

Investment Accounts

SWC UUA CEF	149,976.61
MSD UUA CEF	31,458.83
SED UUA CEF	77,865.42
Total Investment Accounts	\$259,300.86

TOTAL ASSETS

\$753,823.71

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	4895.56
Chalice Lighters	74226.22
SWC Audit Accrual Fund	7,500.00
FLD Growth Reserve Fund	14,402.24
FLD Leadership Reserve Fund	262.09
FLD Program Consultant Reserve	16,028.59
Florida Fund Endowment	23,931.87
SED Association Sunday Return	12,469.04
FLD DE Discretionary	410.07
FLD Annual Assembly Reserve	4,079.68
FLD Racial Justice Reserves	117.67
FLD Disaster Relief - Wider Community	10,965.84
FLD Disaster Relief Fund	3,932.75
FLD Witness for Justice Fund	1,865.25
MSD Mississippi Fund	4,013.63
MSD Anti-Torture Grant	1,500.00
MSD Severe Storm Fund	770.00
MSD UPI Program Fund	6,746.86
MSD Rome GA Dissolution	1,911.83
SED Bending the Arc	1,676.84
SED Laurel Amabile Fund	500.00
SED Youth Gathering Grant	118.75
SED Youth Trustee Fund	1,000.00
SED 2014 Racial Justice Conference	7,000.00
SWC CYA Scholarship Fund	544.00
SWC Friends of the District Fund	4,521.89
SWC CEF Endowment	149,976.61
SR Event Scholarship Fund	10.68
Affiliate FLD Southwest Cluster	2,552.02
Affiliate SED Living Legacy Pilgrimage	28,585.84
Affiliate SED Civil Rights Vets Gathering	2,826.66
Total Current Liabilities	\$389,342.48

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

EQUITY

Organizational Equity	315,076.12
Net Income	49,405.11

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$753,823.71

Southern Region UUA
Budget vs. Actuals: Southern Region - FY14 P&L
July 2013 - June 2014

	Actual	Budget
INCOME		
GIFT Income	543,107.89	574,483.00
APF Grant	137,624.00	137,624.00
UUA Shared Staffing	333,783.65	342,203.00
Program Registration Fees	160,339.30	200,000.00
Marketplace Sales	4,062.25	
Other Program Income	2,130.00	
Congregational Consulting Income	9,382.29	6,000.00
Interest Income	2,866.25	1,900.00
Investment Income	6,747.33	
Donations	262.30	5,000.00
Other Income	3,347.76	
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,203,653.02	\$1,267,210.00
EXPENSES		
General and Office Expense	10,059.77	15,400.00
Equipment and Leases	4,745.68	4,628.00
Insurance	6,399.42	6,000.00
Telecommunications	9,700.60	15,600.00
Contracted and Other Services	47,619.03	68,700.00
Taxes	100.00	
Board and Governance Expenses	49,482.02	48,100.00
Stewardship Expenses		3,000.00
Administrative Staff Salaries	134,138.28	123,578.00
Congregational Life Staff Salaries	622,268.65	650,307.00
Administrative Staff Professional Expense	5,281.71	10,000.00
Congregational Life Staff Professional Expense	103,458.92	105,000.00
Payroll Expense	5,675.20	8,959.00
District Workshops and Programs	136,608.14	175,000.00
Committee Expenses		9,600.00
Gifts and Caring	2,196.49	5,400.00
Congregational Consulting Expenses	16,514.00	43,091.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,154,247.91	\$1,292,363.00
NET INCOME	\$49,405.11	(\$25,153.00)

**Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
Proposed Nominees to the Board of Trustees and
Inaugural Council of Elders
April 2015**



Sarah Ritzmann, Vice President (and Inaugural Council of Elders Candidate)



Sarah Ritzmann is a lifelong UU and Jacksonville area native who has attended Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church since it was formed in 1990 - she was 5 years old. Hailing from a family rooted in the Universalist church, she is the 6th generation in a line of dedicated laypeople. Sarah is committed to the growth and prosperity of our faith. She has served two years as Trustee on the Florida Board and is a member of the Elder Task Force. Sarah works in administration, focusing on proof reading and graphics for a local print marketing firm in Orange Park where she lives with her husband Jeremy and 4-year-old son Judah.

Reverend Amy Kindred, Secretary



The Rev. Amy Kindred is completing her third year as settled minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Charlotte, Florida. She was fellowshipped into Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2008.

Prior to her work in Florida, Kindred served the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Terre Haute, Indiana and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Savannah, Georgia.

She has a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theological Studies (Research in Religion and the Arts) from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her coursework in Unitarian Universalist ministry came from Meadville Lombard in Chicago, Illinois and Starr King in Berkley, California. Rev. Kindred is

a member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA).

While pursuing her studies for Unitarian Universalist ministry, Rev. Kindred was the Director of Visual Art for the Sullivan - Munce Gallery in Zionsville, Indiana for four years and the Executive Director at the Hoosier Salon, a statewide nonprofit arts organization, for two years. Before entering ministry, Rev. Kindred taught Visual Art for twelve years in both public and private schools. She was employed with Scholastic Publishing Company for four years.

Rev. Kindred was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri and raised in southern Indiana. She graduated with a B. S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Fine Art Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Rev. Kindred and her husband, Phil Brown, reside in Punta Gorda, Florida. They have three grown children.

Reverend Janet Onnie, Treasurer



The Reverend Janet Onnie serves the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County. She previously served as the consulting minister to congregations in Tarpon Springs and Lakeland, and has supplied pulpits throughout Florida.

Rev. Onnie is a Teaching Pastor for a Meadville-Lombard seminarian, mentors a minister in preliminary fellowship, and consults with congregations on the development of Lay Pastoral Care Associates programs and Board leadership. In 2010 she was elected as Treasurer of the Florida UU Ministers Association, and also serves the national UUMA as a facilitator for the "Who Are Our Neighbors" program. She has recently been elected as President of the Tri-

County Interfaith Alliance.

Prior to earning her M.Div. Rev. Onnie made her way as a professional musician, teaching and performing mostly in Cleveland, Bermuda and Washington, DC. She has been happily married to Nelson since 1968. They are living in East Lake Weir and enjoying the adventure that is central Florida. Their daughter, Julia, lives and works in Miami.

Roger Brown, Trustee



Roger Brown first became a UU in Rochester, N.Y. fifty years ago. He married Sandra and they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Roger graduated with BA from Ohio Wesleyan University. He has a strong interest in Music, sailing, and socializing.

As he and Sandra moved several times, job related, they were members of UU congregations in Rochester, N.Y., St. Louis, Cincinnati, Toledo, and finally Naples, Florida.

Roger has served congregations as pledge drive chair (two times), capital drive chair, forum committee member, co-chair of membership committee, vision committee member, congregation president (three terms), board member, search committee (twice), and was a Florida District Board member through the Orlando Platform. When the district board size was reduced he volunteered to resign.

Roger is interested in serving the Florida District again with the aim of satisfactorily resolving the roll of the district.



Continuing in current position

Margie Manning, President (and Inaugural Council of Elders Candidate)



Margie Manning first joined a Unitarian Universalist congregation in St. Louis in 1988, and currently is a member of Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater. She previously served as president of the Board of Trustees and as treasurer at UU Church of St. Petersburg. Margie has been president of the Florida District Board of Trustees for the past year and served as secretary for the prior two years. She also is chair of the UUA Southern Region Communications Task Force. She is an editor at the Tampa Bay Business Journal. Margie and her husband, Mike, have two adult daughters who were active in UU youth programs.

Resolution for Dissolution

of

The Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees of The Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association moves that the attending congregational delegates give full authority to the Board of Trustees to complete all of the legal and other tasks necessary to dissolve the District or merge the District into a UUA-related entity, on such terms as the Board of Trustees and the UUA may agree.

Plan of Dissolution

of

The Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

1. Effective of the date of approval of this Plan of Dissolution by the Board of Trustees of The Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (a nonprofit religious corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida) and the District's member congregations, the Plan of Dissolution shall be implemented by the District's Board of Trustees or such other person or persons as may be authorized to act for and on behalf of the Board to effect the dissolution of the District's corporate status and affairs.
2. The District's Board of Trustees, officers, or agents shall file any and all documents of dissolution with appropriate federal, state, and local government authorities, including but not limited to the filing of Articles of Dissolution with the Florida Secretary of State and the filing of appropriate forms with the Internal Revenue Service reporting corporate dissolution.
3. The District's Board of Trustees, officers, or agents shall, as soon as practicable following dissolution, return, transfer, and convey any and all of the District's property to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (a nonprofit religious corporation) and shall execute any deeds or other documents necessary or appropriate to effect such return, transfer, or conveyance.
4. The District's Board of Trustees, officers, or agents shall, as soon as practicable following dissolution, distribute the remaining assets of the District, after providing for the payment or settlement of all valid debts or claims against the District, to the Unitarian Universalist Association (a nonprofit religious corporation).
5. The District's Board of Trustees, officers, or agents shall pay all such fees and taxes and do or cause to be done such other acts and things as they may deem necessary or proper in order to carry out the dissolution of the District's corporate status and affairs.

The Northeast Cluster of the Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association Annual Report - March 2015

Recently I wrote in the *Northeast Breeze* that I accepted the coordinator position expecting members, churches and District staff (now Southern Region staff) to suggest topics and locations and I as coordinator, with the assistance of some volunteers, would help with the planning and marketing as necessary.

The Social Empowerment Workshop on March 21, was attended by members of nine congregations (UU Fellowship of Marion County, UU Congregation of Lake County, UU Fellowship of Gainesville, Nature Coast UU, Mosaic, Vero Beach and First Unitarian Church of Orlando). We thank UU Justice Florida for underwriting the costs of most of the presenters and First Unitarian Church for hosting the event. At the end of the meeting, a wrap-up session was held and nominations for the next coordinator were requested.

Reviewing this year's issues of the *Northeast Breeze*, I am energized by the work of our congregations. Our congregations and members are committed people. Some of the stories shared in the Breeze were: Celebrating Peace Sunday in Gainesville with a songwriter workshop, Speaker Chervara Orrin on the topic "We are Straight Allies" in Jacksonville, a three session per book year-long discussion series at Ormond Beach UU Society, generous Share the Plate programs in most of our congregations, OWL training offered to all by at least two Cluster congregations, GED support programs in the community at Mosaic, a full-time minister at UU Fellowship of Marion County, a beginning UU Bed and Breakfast outreach at Vero Beach, a "Seeing Systems" course at UU Fellowship of St. Augustine, Pride Parades everywhere, Rhana Bazzini's walk for campaign reform and the UU involvement along her walk to Tallahassee starting in Sarasota, and marriage ceremonies at many of the cluster churches, and more. In addition, the *Breeze* reported on Southern Region and UUA news and reserved a page for *UU Justice Florida and UU Justice Action Network*. For all the issues go to <http://www.necluster.uufg.org/>

As of July 1, 2015, my term as coordinator is over. I have enjoyed my time as coordinator and I have met dedicated folks.

My sense is, with the likely end of the Florida District in the near future, the "mostly north and east of I-4" area will develop and support various types of clusters. Unitarian Universalism is important and churches cooperating and sharing ideas can help our churches grow strong. The *Northeast Breeze* will continue to serve.

Martha Harnit Hartgering, outgoing coordinator, Northeast Cluster

Unitarian Universalist Florida South East Cluster
Annual Report 2014-2015

Treasure Coast UU Congregation in Stuart, FL hosted the cluster annual meeting on October 11th, 2014. Approximately 50 people attended. Rev. Kenn Hurto, Lead Executive of the Southeast Region of the UUA spoke about the importance of Mission, Vision, and Covenants of Right Relations. Officer elections were held, resulting in the following leadership:

President: Jan Booher jjlbooher@comcast.net 561-531-0986 Boca Raton
Vice President: Steve Jens-Rochow stevejensrochow@gmail.com 954-647-8379 River of Grass
Treasurer: Kathy Jens-Rochow kjensrochow@gmail.com 954-531-9540 River of Grass
Secretary: Zena Tucker zenatucker3@gmail.com 954-663-4628 River of Grass

A Social Justice Empowerment Workshops is planned for May 2, 2015 at First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, with hosting leadership from Dick Hattwick and Judy Bonner. The **Social Justice Empowerment Workshop** at 10:00 was created by the Rev. Richard ``Bud`` Murphy. He will lead us in exercises that will bring clarity to our motivation & release our power to make a difference in Social Justice.

The **Environmental Justice Workshop** at 1:45 will build on the Commit2Respond Campaign. Irene Keim, President of UU Ministry for Earth and Bob Keim will help us grow hope and effective action as we build sustainability.

The **Racial Justice Workshop** at 1:45 will feature the Rev. Kevin Jones. He is Co-President of PEACE (People Engaged in Active Community Efforts), the largest grassroots organization working on justice in Palm Beach County. Then Bill Turner and Barbara Woshinsky from UUCMiami will lead a discussion on white privilege and structural racism, and how we can become stronger allies in the struggle for racial justice.

Escalating Inequality is the UUA`s Study/Action Issue for 2014-18. Retired Economics Prof. Richard Hattwick will discuss how Escalating Inequality underlies many injustices: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights. A short video will be shown.

For information or registration contact stevejensrochow@gmail.com.

Jan Booher, President, UU Florida South East Cluster

UU SE FL Cluster Trustees Currently Serving on the 2015 Board are:

Trustees:

Gary Ladka garyladka@mindspring.com 954-650-3728 Ft. Lauderdale
Andie Arthur andie.arthur@gmail.com 305-505-5849 First Biscayne
Dick Hattwick richardhattwick@bellsouth.net [561-585-6440](tel:561-585-6440) North Palm
Nicole Rivera nriver14@fau.edu 954-815-0086 Ft. Lauderdale
Bill Turner wturnermiami@bellsouth.net [305-962-5002](tel:305-962-5002) Miami
Barbara Woshinsky bwoshins@miami.edu [786 423 7935](tel:786-423-7935) Miami
Bruce Olson bruce@svalize.com 484-343-2015 Stuart

The Nominating Committee Chair is Andie Arthur andie.arthur@gmail.com
305-505-5849 First Biscayne

Support Personnel Include:

Facebook Person: Larry Stauber lstauber@bellsouth.net 561-575-0839
Web Master: Kip Barkley [Kip Barkley@aol.com](mailto:KipBarkley@aol.com) 954-829-2194ijk

West Central Cluster Annual Report 2014 – 2015

It's been an eventful year in the West Central Cluster.

In June **St Pete Pride** had a new schedule with a night parade on Saturday and displays on Sunday afternoon. We learned a lot about how to take advantage of the new Sunday schedule to have more personal contact with individuals in the more relaxed setting. The promenade on Saturday evening was cooler than at noon and will be even better this year.

The **Annual Picnic** at Spirit of Life UUs was in October.

The **Holiday Service** this year at the UU Church of St Petersburg was a joyful beginning to the holidays with the All Cluster Choir singing "Winter Canon" led by Nicholas Filzen and a play written by Jeff Harper and performed by the Cluster Players.

February's event was "**Free the Giant Within.**" Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida brought Bud Murphy to help us release the effective power to make a difference. Three workshops to encourage ways to use our power followed: "Environmental Justice" presented by Irene Keim; "Preaching Even When You're Not Ordained" by Rev Katy Korb; and "Connecting RE to the Congregation and Beyond" by Christine Pensa.

The **UU Renewal** service March 12 welcomed Rev Dr William F Schulz, "Hope? Hell, Yes!" with music from the All Cluster Choir and Dr. David Katz, Music Director of UUs of Clearwater.

Our **Annual Meeting** in May will follow an **Ethics** workshop led by Rev Brock Leach of the UUSC.

UU Justice Florida and the UUJF Action Network

Annual Report for the 2015 Florida District Assembly

UU Justice Florida was established as a separate educational non-profit in 2013.



Our VISION is a just and compassionate society, an improved global economy, and a sustainable earth, starting in Florida.

Our MISSION is to promote justice, equity and compassion in public policy, guided by our faith tradition and working with public interest groups and interfaith partners who work for the common good.

As we expand connections with Unitarian Universalist congregations statewide, we

- Held our first statewide Annual Meeting at the 2014 Florida District Assembly. 27 Unitarian Universalists from 16 Florida UU congregations attended. Core Issues chosen for 2014-15 were Democracy at Risk, Immigration, and Climate Change.
- Received our 501(c)(3) status from the IRS July 14, 2014. All individual contributions are now tax-deductible.
- Provided a Speaker's Bureau for Unitarian Universalist congregations: board member Steve Jens-Rochow provided the forum and Sunday service at University UU in July, 2014
- Sponsored our 2015 Annual UU Justice Florida Legislative Day in Tallahassee March 23-24, 2015 to involve Unitarian Universalists in how our state government works and show how they can make a difference on key issues. 41 people including Unitarian Universalists from 11 UU congregations in Florida plus interfaith partners and representatives from 5 Move to Amend affiliates <https://movetoamend.org/affiliates-list> attended.
- Planned and delivered a series of three Social Justice Empowerment workshops in the three UU Clusters in Florida, with the morning interactive session "Free the Giant Within" presented by our UUJF Vice President Rev. Bud Murphy, and afternoon programming requests selected by each cluster: West Central Cluster--St. Petersburg, January 31, 2015; Northeast Cluster, Orlando, March 21, 2015; and still to come, Southeast Cluster, North Palm Beach, May 2, 2015.

- In conjunction with the Florida Council of Churches, planned the “2015 Florida Interfaith Climate Conference: Bridging Spirituality, Healing and Action” in Longwood, Florida April 10-11, 2015. Unitarian Universalists are acting in a supportive role, with the lead taken by the Florida Council of Churches, to engage maximum interfaith participation.
- Continued to develop interfaith and secular partnerships with such organizations as the Florida League of Women Voters, Florida Immigrant Coalition, South Florida Climate Change Compact, UU Service Committee, UU Ministry for Earth, UUs for a Just Economic Community, and the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign.
- Scheduled our Second Annual Meeting at the 2015 Florida District Assembly April 18, 2015 and encouraged all UU congregations in Florida to become Congregational members of UU Justice Florida and participate in decision-making about our issues and confirmation of our Directors.
- Recorded that 19 UU congregations in Florida have become Congregational Members of UU Justice Florida, and another three support us via Share-the-Plate.
- Added three new board members to the UU Justice Florida Board: Nancy Nordyke-Shelley from Orange City; David Johnson, from Jacksonville; and Jan Booher, from Boca Raton
- Added work on Justice For All, mass incarceration, fatal encounters with police, and reforming the justice system via board member Nancy Nordyke-Shelley.
- Continued to operate with an all-volunteer Board and volunteer Coordinator
- Devoted 100% of funds to activities to build statewide UU participation

UUJF Action Network



Our network of individual Unitarian Universalists, the UUJF Action Network, raises our voices together in the public square and takes specific actions on legislative issues for the common good, in support of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

As we live our faith by living our principles, we

- Supported Florida’s Water and Land Legacy Campaign to gather needed petitions to put Amendment 1 on the ballot and pass it in November, 2014 to protect Florida’s waterways, parks and environmental lands.
- Supported the Immokalee workers in their Fair Food Campaign

- Met with legislators in Tallahassee March 24th on bills to 1) oppose guns on campus 2) ensure transparency in hiring University Presidents, 3) support the anti-fracking bill, 4) support civil citations rather than criminal penalties for first offender children, and enlist co-sponsors for the Florida House resolution for Move to Amend, to work toward a constitutional amendment to establish that only human beings have constitutional rights, and money is not speech.
- Continued to add UU congregations in Florida to the list of those passing resolutions for Move to Amend. As of March 29, 2015, 17 Unitarian Universalist congregations have passed resolutions for Move to Amend. More are on the way. All congregations are encouraged to pass a resolution at their Annual Meeting or other congregational meeting, post it here <https://movetoamend.org/resolutions-map> and post their endorsement here: <https://movetoamend.org/organizations> . Passing and posting a resolution in support of Move to Amend is a small step every Unitarian Universalist congregation can take to help save our democracy from the flood of Big Money that is consuming it. This directly supports our Fifth Principle.
- Helped to grow Move to Amend support among UU congregations nationwide as well as support for the Move to Amend Interfaith Caucus.
- Continued to build our list of UUJF Action Network members and encourage signups at <http://www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/sign-up>
- Track statistics on our outreach every month: Here are our latest statistics as of March 31, 2015:
 - 643 are on our statewide email list (hopefully further shared with local lists in each congregation)
 - 207 LIKES on our UUJF Action Network Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/uujfactionnetwork>
 - 38 followers on our UUJF Twitter account: we are following 38, and have 35 tweets so far
 - On Move to Amend:
 - 879 LIKES on <https://www.facebook.com/MoveToAmendUUs>
 - 105 LIKES on <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Move-To-Amend-Interfaith-Caucus/773557659361248>
 - 683 LIKES on <https://www.facebook.com/MovetoAmendFlorida>
 - 17 UU congregations have passed resolutions for Move to Amend:
 - Manatee Fellowship (Bradenton), Venice, Gainesville, Tarpon Springs, Palm Beach, Nature Coast (Citrus Springs), Pensacola, Hollywood, Clearwater, St. Augustine, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, River of Grass (Davie), Key West, UUs of Bay County (Panama City), UU Fellowship of Marion County (Summerfield), and Sarasota.
 - Six city councils in Florida have passed resolutions for Move to Amend: Gainesville, Orlando, Key West, S. Miami, Lake Worth, and St. Petersburg.

- Alachua County became the first county in Florida to pass a straw vote referendum for Move to Amend 11/4/14.

Kindra Muntz

www.uujusticefl.org

941-497-1764

This ministry is made possible in part by a grant from the
Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility

Your contributions, individual and congregational, will help continue our work together.

<http://www.uujusticefl.org/donate>