

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists
Kolozsvár, Transylvania
September 1-5, 2009

MEETING LOCATION

Headquarters of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, Romania
400105 Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, B-dul 21 Decembrie 1989 nr. 9
Tel/fax: 0040/264593236, 0040/364450557, www.unitarius.com, dgyero@unitarius.com
(the HQ building is known as the Unitarian Highschool or Brassai Highschool building, and it is located next to the Sora Shopping Center; please give these references if help is needed in finding your way to the location)

ARRIVAL

Plan to arrive no later than mid-day, Tuesday, September 1. Orientation sessions for delegates (especially first-time delegates) and for observers are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, followed by a welcoming reception for all at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will begin with dinner together at 6:00 PM (18:00) followed by an Ingathering Ceremony and at 19:30 and the first official meeting session. Please let John Clifford know your exact flight numbers and arrival times if you have not done so already, so that a local volunteer can meet you. In case you find it necessary to make your own way from the airport to the Unitarian Headquarters or your hotel, please call David Gyero for instructions. (see emergency phone numbers, below.) At the Unitarian Headquarters, a registration volunteer will be available on Monday and on Tuesday from 12:00 noon until 6pm.

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

All delegates will share a room with another delegate, unless a single room is specifically requested. Please communicate your need for a special room to John Clifford, as soon as possible. Meals will be taken together, according to a planned menu. If you have needs for special foods, or have restrictions on foods you can eat, please communicate with John so that he may help you meet your needs. It may be necessary for you to bring some of what you need with you.

We will be using two hotels, plus the dormitory at the Unitarian highschool. Hotel Victoria's phone number is +40 264 597963 and 597964, <http://pages.astral.ro/victoria/>. Hotel Agape's phone is +40 264 406523, <http://www.hotelagape.ro/main.php>. And, since only one part of the people will be staying in these two hotels, local organizer David Gyero's cell phone number will be the general emergency contact number for you to give to family and friends, +40 744 706157. (From the USA, for example, one would dial 011 – 40 – 744 – 706157.)

Meals will be served at the cafeteria of the Unitarian Headquarters. It will be traditional European and mostly Transylvanian cooking, but not exclusively. Vegetarian is an option for those who indicated this at the registration. Breakfast will be served at the hotel, and the dormitory, respectively.

WHAT TO BRING

The meetings are mostly informal, so bring comfortable clothes. Participation in a worship service with the local Unitarian congregation is an option on Sunday, so for that occasion you may want to dress more formally. The weather in Kolozsvár at this time of year is usually warm – 20-25, but possibly even 25-30 degrees Celsius. Bring at least a light jacket, and an umbrella.

For our meetings, please bring the following items and information about your home congregation or member group.

1. **Report:** All delegates are asked to give brief report on the activities of their member group. Please send a copy of this report, using the format sent to you, to Jill McAllister, not later than August 17th.
2. **Picture** of your church or the place your congregation meets.
3. **Picture** of an event or your church community.
4. A printed **order of service**, from your congregation, if possible.
5. An **inspirational writing**, or text, written in both its original language and an English translation. This reading should be something which has particularly inspired or nourished you. These readings will be shared and collected for all to use.
6. **Materials for worship** - hymns, readings, sacred objects or symbols. Each council participant will be asked to take part in preparing one of our morning or evening worship services.
7. **A very small rock or stone**, from your home, to be used in the opening ceremony.
8. **Publicity Materials:** Please bring to the meeting any materials your group has used to publicize your meetings or events, your principles and ideas, so that we may learn from one another. These materials will be arranged in a display. They might include: worship materials (hymn-book, etc.) books, newsletters, leaflets, pamphlets-on UUism, news clippings, photographs (of the meeting house and its members and of important events), chalices, chalice-printed neckties, glasses, banners, flags, maps, and all other materials that you use to publicize our faith. Delegates and observers will be encouraged to share ideas and views about publicizing the ICUU ideals and purposes.

MEETING SCHEDULE

On Wednesday through Saturday, our schedule will follow the general timetable listed below. A draft of the detailed schedule is included for you in this mailing, and a final schedule and agenda will be available upon arrival in Kolozsvár:

Centering Practices (optional)

Breakfast 8 – 8:45 am

Worship 9:00

Morning Business Sessions (2 sessions, 1.5 hours each, with a break)

Lunch and Free Time 13:00 – 14:30

Working Session 15:00-18:00

Dinner 6:30 – 7:30 (18:30 – 19:30)

Working Session - Presentations and Discussions

Worship

Socializing

On Sunday morning we will join members of the local Unitarian church for worship.

A substantial amount of our working time will be spent in small groups, developing plans and recommendations for the Council to act on. This will include working groups which will work on specific agenda items, as well as regional groups and covenant groups.

The working groups will include the following: Ministerial Education and Training, International Convocation of UU Women Network, ICUU partnerships for social justice work, ICUU communications, World Parliament of Religion, ICUU Finance. Each working group will be asked to consider the ICUU Strategic plan and goals.

Covenant Groups

All participants in the Council meeting will be invited to participate in a Covenant Group. These small groups of 7-8 people will provide a daily opportunity for participants to check-in with one another, to get to know others better, and to talk about important shared concerns. These small groups have proved very useful and meaningful in establishing closer relations between group members.

The Council Meeting will finish with lunch on Sunday. Local volunteers will help transfer Council members to the rail station and airport as needed. Executive Committee members (new and old) will meet on Sunday afternoon, following the close of the Council meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA

The business of the Council will include at least the following items. The final detailed and timed agenda of the business meeting will be available upon arrival in Kolozsvár.

AGENDA ITEMS

Reports from each member group (10 minutes each)
Reports from President, Secretary, Treasurer, other EC members, Administrator
Budget Report, Budget Proposals for 2010 –2011, and Approval of the Budget
Member group financial contributions – requirements
Membership applications and issues
Nominating Committee Report
Election of Executive Committee and Nominating Committee
Task Force Work and Reports and Proposals – 3 Task Forces
 Africa Leadership, Ministerial Education and Training
Worship morning and evening
Discussion of ICUU Strategic Plan and 5-yr Program Plan
Working Groups, Committees and Workshops
 International and Local Funding
 Ministerial Education and Training
 Strategic Partners
 International Convocation of UU Women – priorities
 Congregation to Congregation Partnerships
 Community Development, Community Capacity Building, Micro-lending

*Member groups, Task Forces, and committees may bring proposals for the Council to consider. If you have a proposal in mind contact President Brian Kiely as soon as you can, to discuss it.

WORSHIP

Each morning and evening there will be time for worship, led by delegates and observers. All are asked to bring worship materials – hymns, prayers, readings, sacred objects and symbols- to share in a worship service. The times of worship services are listed below. All delegates and observers are asked, but not required, to participate in at least one worship service. Rev. Jill McAllister will make the assignments for each service. We will notify you of this schedule before you arrive in Kolozsvar.

Tuesday Evening Led by Executive Committee
Wednesday Morning
Wednesday Evening
Thursday Morning
Thursday Evening
Friday Morning
Friday Evening
Saturday Morning
Saturday Evening
Sunday Late Morning – join with local Unitarians at Kolozsvar Church

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS

HOW TO GET AND EXCHANGE MONEY

If you have a bank card, ATM's are all over the city, and they are generally functioning well and safe. Other methods could be exchanging cash dollars or euros into Romanian lei at the many exchange offices, or using credit cards for payments (true, doable still rarely), or selling travelers' checks at a bank. (You can exchange your own local currency for euros at an exchange station in the airport or train station.) Using ATM is best, by far.

EMERGENCY CONTACT and TELEPHONES

Family and friends may contact participants in an emergency, if needed, by calling David Gyero at +40 744 706157. For calling home, telephone cards are generally available for sale at the hotels and in some shops in the city. Internet cafes are also available for those who want to stay in contact via e-mail.

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT IN KOLOZSVAR PLACES TO SEE

Places to see in Kolozsvar include the main square with the former Unitarian cathedral, the botanical garden, the Cloudy Hill with an overlook to the city, the Hazsongard cemetery with memorials for famous Hungarians and Unitarians, as well as a fine arts museum and a natural history museum.