



# The Global Chalice

ICUU Newsletter [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net) November 2007

A Publication of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



## Council Meeting in Oberwesel, Germany, Nov 1-6

The busy and productive 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting featured 100 participants representing 22 countries, who met at a German youth hostel for a week of worship, meetings, meals, and social time. With cool, overcast autumn weather, our location on the Rhine proved ideal for the purpose. Many thanks are due to Antje Paul, the meeting's principal local organizer, and to Christine Hayhurst, a British ICUU stalwart who took on last-minute logistical responsibilities when Antje became ill.

**A new ICUU mission statement was adopted (at right), Jemaat Allah Global Indonesia was admitted into full membership, and five new emerging groups were granted official recognition: Burundi, Congo, Cuba, Italy, and Mexico.**

In addition to ICUU business meetings, a variety of workshops were offered on subjects as varied as microcredit (presented by members of the UU United Nations Office) and spiritual challenges in the Khasi Hills, India (presented by Khasi Unitarian Revs. Pearl Greene Marbaniang and Derrick Pariat). The group as a whole also enjoyed presentations on community-based planning and on U\*U communities in Africa. This Council meeting marked the largest-yet attendance of African Unitarians.

The Council accepted an invitation from the Transylvanian Unitarian Church to hold our next meeting (2009) in Kolozsvár, specific dates to be determined.

The ICUU's next major event will be an African Leadership Conference, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2008 with faculty drawn from the USA, UK, India, South Africa, and Transylvania and approximately 35 leadership students from Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.

### The Mission of the ICUU is

- To build relationships through communication and collaboration;
- To develop spiritual community among member groups and their leaders;
- To identify and nurture prospective and emerging groups;
- To foster our U\*U faith for mutual inspiration, development, and growth.

-adopted by the Council, 2007

## ICUU President's Message

Greetings to all Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists around the world.

It was an honour to be elected President of the ICUU early in November. I am pleased to be surrounded by such a great Executive Committee team supported so ably by Executive Secretary John Clifford. I look forward to the next two years starting with the ICUU Leadership School in Nairobi, Kenya in February, 2008.

Two years ago I attended my first ICUU conference in Montserrat, Spain. I was nervous. It was all very new. I knew I would encounter expressions of Unitarianism and Unitarian Universalism very different from my own. I would meet people who had firmer and more definite beliefs than mine. I am a Canadian, and being definite is a little foreign to us. In a CBC Radio contest to come up with a phrase to describe something as truly Canadian—like the phrase "As American as apple pie," we elected, "As Canadian as possible under the circumstances."

So how would I fare in a place where there was such diversity—in geography, in cultures, in statements of faith? I was nervous.

To my delight, I found a community where learning from one another was more important than talking, where there was honest inquiry into others' views and beliefs. And as I participated in more and more conversations, as I attended Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist worship in flavours from around the world, I discovered a common thread. Earlier in this meeting, Rev. István Kovacs of Transylvania spoke of how the energizing sap comes to us rising from the roots of our past, but how that sap is made new and is transformed by the sunlight of the present into the growth of new leaves and branches. We share a pursuit of free inquiry in whatever culture the church exists. There is a pursuit of the deeper personal spiritual understanding of Unitarianism in the world. There is a commitment to living a personal understanding of Unitarianism in the world, by which I mean we all respond to the call for social justice in a way that is appropriate for our homelands. And finally, there is a passion for creating meaningful communities.

In my view, these are the core root values that I found at Montserrat meetings, the core root values that link our different expressions of the Unitarian and Universalist ideals around the globe. That realization moved me deeply. When my New Zealand worship partner Rev. Derek McCullough and I shared the Chalice Lighting at a worship service for this year's Council meeting, we observed that we come from very far apart in the world and yet that we shared a common historical link to the United Kingdom. As I looked around the room at the different faces, as I listened to the many native languages and accents, I was struck by our amazing diversity. And yet, I still feel, as I listen more deeply, that these roots of Unitarianism are the common tie, the common tradition. Each of us is a beautiful leaf, a beautiful variant, a unique expression of those core root values.

-Rev. Brian Kiely

## *The Home We Share: Globalization, Post-Modernism, and Unitarian/Universalist Theology*

This book of papers from the ICUU's second Theological Symposium, held in July 2006 in Transylvania, features contributions from lay and professional theologians around the ICUU world.

Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists from six continents gathered in Kolozsvár to consider how our theology and liturgy could respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and post-modernism. Pressing ethical issues of global justice, equity, and environmental stewardship touch all of our lives. Ideas about radical intellectual freedom pose uncomfortable questions about our own liberal religious assumptions and certainties, but participants affirmed the unity of all existence and committed to religious freedom, diversity, social justice, and covenantal relationships.

And, all agreed, the proceedings were "too valuable to be left solely to the notes and memories of those who were there."

To order a copy of *The Home We Share*, edited by Clifford Reed and Jill McAllister, please contact ICUU Publications, [WordenDex@aol.com](mailto:WordenDex@aol.com) Cost is \$23 US plus shipping (\$4.60 within the USA, \$6.00 to Canada or Mexico, or \$11.00 to other international addresses).



## Friends of the ICUU

Although a "Friends" group was launched at the 2005 Council meeting in Montserrat, the group was not formally organized until the 2007 meeting in Oberwesel.

Joining Friends of the ICUU enables individuals and congregations to "support the world vision of the ICUU by raising funds for the ICUU and promoting conferences, pilgrimages, and networking opportunities." Contributions are currently being accepted (and membership fees set) in US dollars, British pounds, and Euros. For tax reasons, Canadians are encouraged to donate through the Canadian Unitarian Council.

Members of the FICUU Steering Committee for 2007-09 include the Rev. Richard Boeke (Moderator), Barbara Beach (Deputy Moderator), and Chris Heinrichs (Secretary). Subcommittees have been formed in several regions, including one charged with contacting people in the USA who have already expressed interest in FICUU.

For more information about how to join Friends or make a financial contribution to the ICUU, please contact Chris Heinrichs, [PCHeinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:PCHeinrichs@gmail.com)

### First-Timers Review the 2007 Council Meeting

When I travelled to Oberwesel, it was my second trip to Germany and my first attendance at an ICUU meeting of any kind. It was great to find that such a free-spirited community exists, one of friends from many different countries, groups, cultures and backgrounds. I was enlightened by the general openness and friendliness of everyone I spoke with, regardless of whether they shared my belief down to the detail or not. In many other occasions around religion or politics grand speeches are held about unity, equality and friendship but I dare claim that ICUU offers a rare exception at the fact that within the community those ideals are met in action, not only in words. I want to thank each of the participants for creating the refreshing atmosphere at the meeting, and for participation in itself and presence without which no change can be made. May your beliefs carry you forward on whatever roads you choose.

-Päivi Kesti (Finland)

It was amazing! I had no idea there were U\*U congregations in so many places all over our world! There were several worship services, with each group having an opportunity to work with others to give us an international U\*U religious smorgasbord. There was such one-world friendliness.

I represented the UU Esperanto Network, which was applying for Associate Membership in the ICUU, and although no other Esperanto speakers were present, several participants were delighted to tell me of other UUs they knew in their homeland who were active Esperantists.

I would go again. And again. And again. Try to keep me away!

-Sherry Wells (USA)

## Noteworthy Websites

In addition to ICUU member group sites featured on page 4, your editor also recommends these internet addresses.

Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee on the congruence between Unitarian Universalist principles and ideas underlying the world wide web:

[www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/UU.html](http://www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/UU.html)

ICUU Facebook Group: open enrollment

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4752607284](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4752607284)

ICUU Microfinance discussion group led by Patrice Curtis (USA) & Aryanto Nugroho (Indonesia) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icuumicrofinance/>

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

[www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

Michael Servetus Institute: [www.miguelservet.org](http://www.miguelservet.org)

UUs in Uganda: [www.uuganda.org](http://www.uuganda.org)

UUs in Singapore: [www.uusingapore.org](http://www.uusingapore.org)

Assemblée fraternelle des chrétiens unitariens (AFCU): <http://afcu.over-blog.org/>

### ICUU Executive Committee 2007-09



**l-r: Jill McAllister, David Shaw, Brian Kiely, Jaime de Marcos, Gordon Oliver, Pearl Greene Marbaniang, not pictured: Pauline Rooney**

New to the EC are **Brian Kiely**, Canadian Unitarian minister and past-president of the Canadian Unitarian Council, **Pauline Rooney**, lay Unitarian from Australia and co-convenor of that country's six-year-old Unitarian Radio Group, and **David Shaw**, British Unitarian minister and veteran faculty member of ICUU leadership conferences. **Jill McAllister** and **Gordon Oliver** are past ICUU presidents and ministers in the USA and South Africa, respectively, **Pearl Greene Marbaniang** is a Khasi Unitarian minister beginning his third term on the EC, and **Jaime de Marcos** is a lay Unitarian from Spain who begins his second term.

## Note to Unitarian historians and theologians:

ICUU Secretary Jaume de Marcos' master's thesis from Barcelona University, "The Influence of Erasmus on Michael Servetus' Works," has been published in a bilingual English/Spanish edition. It is now available through the Servetus Institute website, [www.miguelservet.org/servetus/estore.htm](http://www.miguelservet.org/servetus/estore.htm)

### ICUU Member Groups

Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Association  
Canadian Unitarian Council  
Religious Society of Czech Unitarians  
Danish Unitarian Church  
European Unitarian Universalists  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Finland  
Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)  
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain)  
Unitarian Church in Hungary  
Indian Council of Unitarian Churches  
Jemaat Allah Global Indonesia  
Unitarian Brotherhood Church and First Unitarian Church of Nigeria  
Unitarian Universalist Christians of Pakistan  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines, Inc.  
Unitarian Church in Poland  
Transylvanian Unitarian Church (Romania)  
South African National Association of Unitarians  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Spain  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Sri Lanka  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA)

#### Executive Committee, 2007-09

President: **Rev. Brian Kiely**, Canada  
Vice President: **Rev. Gordon Oliver**, South Africa  
Secretary: **Jaume de Marcos**, Spain  
Treasurer: **Rev. David Shaw**, UK  
At Large: **Pearl Greene Marbaniang**, India  
**Rev. Jill McAllister**, USA  
**Pauline Rooney**, Australia

Executive Secretary: **Rev. John Clifford**, UK

#### ICUU Office Address

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#### Program Director

**Rev. Polly Guild**  
4 Kendall Common, Weston, MA 02493 USA  
email: [polly@pollyguild.com](mailto:polly@pollyguild.com)

## Member Groups' Websites

The first eight sites are in English, afterwards in other languages with English options as noted.

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA)

[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain)

[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) Canadian Unitarian Council

[www.anzua.org/anzua\\_alt](http://www.anzua.org/anzua_alt) Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Association

[www.euu.uua.org](http://www.euu.uua.org) European Unitarian Universalists

[www.unitarian.co.za](http://www.unitarian.co.za) South African National Association of Unitarians

[www.uuphilippines.org](http://www.uuphilippines.org) Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines

[www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org) Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

[www.unitarius.hu](http://www.unitarius.hu) Unitarian Church in Hungary—enter in Hungarian or English

[www.unitarius.ro](http://www.unitarius.ro) Transylvanian Unitarian Church—enter site by clicking on belépés, then click on the US flag (not working at press time)

[www.unitarisme.dk](http://www.unitarisme.dk) Danish Unitarian Church—click on "info in English," left column.

[www.unitarier.de](http://www.unitarier.de) Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)—select English at top left

[www.unitaria.cz](http://www.unitaria.cz) Religious Society of Czech Unitarians—click on "Praha" for the Prague congregation's site, which has some English content

<http://uuespana.googlepages.com/home>  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Spain—readers of Spanish will also want to visit [www.uuhispano.net](http://www.uuhispano.net)

[www.netlife.fi/users/antti.pelkola/uu](http://www.netlife.fi/users/antti.pelkola/uu) Unitarian Universalist Society of Finland

**The Global Chalice** is a publication of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, an association of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist organizations and congregations in more than 20 countries. Learn more about the ICUU on our website, [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net)

Officers and staff of the ICUU and its member groups may submit material for this newsletter by contacting the editor, Lorella Thomas Hess, [newsletter@icuu.net](mailto:newsletter@icuu.net)