



The Global Chalice

ICUU Newsletter www.icuu.net November 2008

A Publication of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



International
Council
of Unitarians
and Universalists



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New Website launched Nov. 30

Greetings! I would like to invite you to visit our new website at www.icuu.net. I hope you will find it more colorful, friendlier and more useable. Our intention has been to create a website that serves three distinct groups.

First we want to reach out to anyone who is new to Unitarianism or Unitarian Universalism (as it's called in some parts of the world). We have had quite a few people in different parts of the world contact us through this site. Sometimes it is their first exposure to us. The result has been new expressions of Unitarianism appearing or being 'discovered', in several parts of the world including some nations in Africa, South and Central America and Asia.

In my view, the beauty of Unitarianism is that it outlines an approach to religion, an approach that incorporates the use of reason, the freedom from creedal limitations and the celebration of the human spirit. In each nation where our faith exists, it looks a little different from anywhere else. Why? Because each nation has a different history, culture and social context. Unitarianism is an adaptable religion that can include substantial portions of the religions and traditions that already exist. As I say, its best quality is that it helps define an approach to religion and spirituality rather than proffer a fixed set of doctrines and beliefs.

If this describes you, I think you will find useful material in our [Curriculum](#) section, in the posted [Sermons](#) and in the [Educational Links](#) that will help you find Unitarian discussion on an immense range of subjects.

The second audience for this website is comprised of existing Unitarians and UUs around the world who want to learn more about those various expressions of the Unitarian religion. Perhaps they want to visit other countries and hope to experience the local form of their

Church while there. Perhaps they have become interested in the work of the International Council and wish to participate in one of our open Council meetings, Symposia or other events.

You, too, can find a lot here. In addition to what I have noted above, you can find information on specific national groups and their websites in our [Members](#) section and check out upcoming activities on the [Events](#) page.

Finally, this website must also serve the needs of the Member Groups that set the future course for our organization at each Council meeting. Minutes, agendas, Executive Committee details and public policy documents are posted in the [About ICUU](#) page under the appropriate subcategories. As well reports of past and future training events can be found on the [Program](#) page.

We are always seeking to improve this site. If you have suggestions to offer or contributions for the site please click the [Contact Us](#) button and have your say.

I hope this will be a useful resource.

In faith,
Rev. Brian J. Kiely, ICUU President
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

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.

ICUU Council Meeting in historic Kolozsvár, Transylvania, September 2009



The ICUU Executive has accepted an invitation from the Transylvanian Unitarian Church to hold the next Council Meeting and associated International Gathering in Kolozsvár, site of the Transylvanians' Headquarters and College. On many maps the city is identified as Cluj, Romania.

The Council Meeting will run from Tuesday 1 September (arrivals) to Saturday 5 September (departures). A full day pilgrimage to Deva, site of the prison where Dávid Ferenc (Francis David) died, is being planned—this might be just before, just after, or during the Council Meeting (the dates of the CM might be adjusted slightly if the Deva trip is during the meetings).

All Member Groups are entitled to send one voting delegate to the Council; Groups with more than 3,000 individual adult members are entitled to a second voting delegate. There will be a sponsorship fund to assist travel and accommodation for delegates from developing economies. Additionally, individual Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists may attend the International Gathering at their own expense; these individuals may observe the Council Meeting but not speak or vote at business sessions although they may participate in the other aspects of the programme.

Further details will be added to the website [Events](#) page as soon as they are available.

We hope that all Member Groups will arrange to be represented at this Council, being held in an exceptionally historic part of our liberal heritage.

-Rev. John Clifford, Executive Secretary, ICUU

Indonesian Progress

As the Unitarian Christian Church of Indonesia (a.k.a Jemaat Allah Global Indonesia) is preparing for its third national convention next year, there are both opportunities and threats that our church faces.

Unitarianism is more widely known these days here due to our prolific publications which are distributed throughout the country. There are persons from other denominations who made personal phone calls after reading our books claiming they are Unitarian also, although they haven't joined us officially yet. The latest book being prepared to publish is our elder and national chairman Tjahjadi Nugroho's *Jesus: My Lord, My Teacher, My Friend, and My Brother*.

On the other hand, there are influential figures who conspicuously detest our existence. A famous Christian scholar vowed some time ago that he would fight to banish Unitarianism from Indonesia. He makes a kind of tour around big cities discrediting Unitarianism. He challenged Elder Tjahjadi Nugroho to hold an open debate about Jesus, which we accepted – we're still negotiating about the details. We demand that the event must take place in neutral place, led by neutral moderator, and held before an open (not exclusive) audience.

ANZUUA Executive Embraces Skype

Undoubtedly the most radical change to how we operate is the adoption of using Skype online conferencing for our meetings, which has revolutionised our administration. Prior to this the cost of conference call meetings restricted executive meetings to perhaps two or three a year. The last meeting before using Skype cost us over \$800 for an hour. Now, we meet monthly at no cost. This has enabled us to complete a great deal of work. We have updated our constitution, including our name change to the Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association, and adopted a protocol for our website content. It is amazing to think that nine of us, across 4 time zones, can meet for an hour a month at no cost to the organisation. It also allows us to keep in touch and I can report that our groups are ticking along nicely, all offering an interesting range of programmes.

-Derek McCullough, President, ANZUUA

Update from Spain

The UU Society of Spain is happy to welcome a new fellowship in A Coruña (a city in Galicia, northwest Spain), led by a young Spaniard with a Jewish background. Two new internet-based Unitarian groups have also formed, one strictly Christian and the other mixing pagan and Buddhist beliefs.

After two failed attempts at being recognized as a religious association, the legal status of Spanish U*Uism is still uncertain. The government's rejections, arguing that U*U cannot be qualified as a religion, were hard blows for the continuity of a national association of Spanish Unitarians. While a new and less restrictive law of Religious Freedom is expected to be passed in the next few years, local groups are individually looking for legal status as cultural associations.

The Youth Effect in the UUNEI

May 2008 will go down in the annals of history of the Unitarian Union of North East India as the month in which our much-awaited change of leadership took place. For many years the crying need for change had become increasingly evident, judging from people's reactions and the mood at Board Meetings.

What is significant about this development is the holding of the first ever formal elections using the ballot to decide who is to lead the Union. Barring the interim leadership of the late B. Myllemngap as General Secretary for a period of three years, the Union has had the same person as General Secretary for forty years. This has created a lot of frustration at the different levels of leadership within the Union. The unfortunate thing is that the young have become restless and a lot of them have lost interest. The historic vote in the May Elections however transcended age and experience and saw the emergence of a new breed of young Ministers at the top echelons of administration in the UUNEI. The election has ended the divide-and-hope-to-rule attitude of our erstwhile leadership.

The new team at the outset is very clear with what it intends to do while in office "for only three years". We want to give **impetus to Ministry and Faith Development**. It is also a priority of the new team to strike a **balance between the lay-led movement and the demand for a professionalised leadership**.

We are now **making UUNEI more visible as a Religious organization** and we are working hard to make our followers realize that **we are first in the business of religion**. To achieve this we have now appointed more Assistant Ministers, Church Workers and Chaplains to attend to the people and to improve our Pastoral Care services. To look into affairs of this nature we have put in place the Ministry Development Committee.

A Review Committee on the Constitution of the Union has been instituted to look into the loopholes of the existing constitution. Following this, **amendments have been made to the Constitution** to facilitate better functioning and devolution of authority, more representation from the Youth and Women Wings in the Board of the UUNEI, etc.

Lately we have informally launched our **Seminary in Shillong** where classes are held every Saturday for our newly inducted Assistant Ministers.

We are now in the process of **instituting an Evangelical Ministry** in order to attract more young people to our movement.

Efforts are also on to **streamline international relations and partnerships** and to this end the Partner Church Committee of the UUNEI has been constituted .

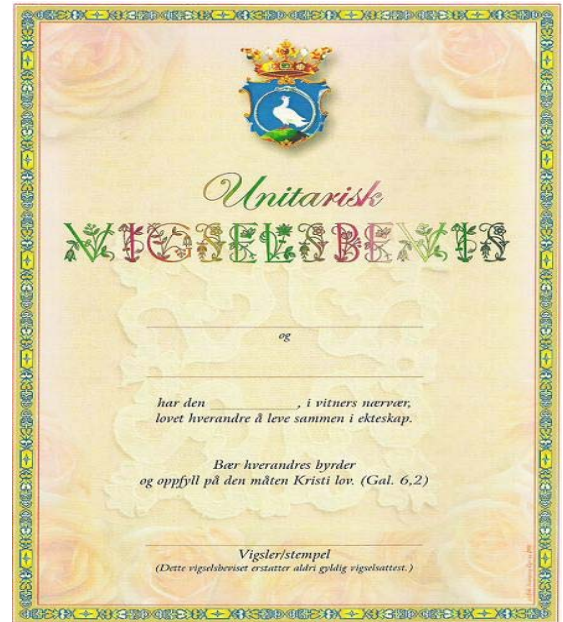
With the rising of the sun every morning comes another day dawning with new hopes and new plans. As such, the UUNEI under its new leadership, is a rising sun of hope, faith and trust for all Unitarians in North East India. We look forward to a bright and hopeful future with dreams emerging into reality.

To Nangroi!

-Rev. Derrick P. Pariat, President, UUNEI.

Unitarians Marry in Norway

The Norwegian Unitarian Church has begun to solemnize marriages, and beginning in January 2009 will perform same-sex weddings and weddings for foreigners. A copy of the new Norwegian Unitarian marriage certificate, similar to that used by the Hungarian Unitarian Church, is below.



Superintendent Pastor Knut Heidelberg reports high interest in Unitarian weddings and has had to limit his schedule to two per month in order to keep up with other duties. For more information, see the Norwegian church's website: <http://unitarforbundet.org>

Rosso Ordained November 16

Dr. Roberto Rosso (left) became the first Italian Unitarian minister when he was ordained in the Transylvanian tradition at the Danish Unitarian Church in Copenhagen. Unitarians from Norway and New Mexico, USA, also enriched a wonderful ceremony.



Dr. Rosso has been active in ICUU affairs since attending the 2007 Council meeting in Germany. He lives in Turin and will preside at his first official service for an Italian congregation December 6.

UUA President travels to Africa

In a much-anticipated trip, Rev. William Sinkford has spent most of November meeting with local Unitarians, UUSC partner organizations, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu on a tour of South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, and Nigeria. Inspiring reports and videos from Sinkford and his entourage are posted at <http://uupilgrimage.blogspot.com/>

ICUU Member Groups

Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Assn.
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 Assn. of Sri Lanka
Unitarian Universalist Assn. 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: **Rev. Pearl Greene Marbaniang**, India
Rev. Jill McAllister, USA
Pauline Rooney, Australia

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

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Member Groups' Websites

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

www.uua.org Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA)

www.unitarian.org.uk General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain)

www.cuc.ca Canadian Unitarian Council

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

www.euu.uua.org European Unitarian Universalists

www.unitarian.co.za South African National Association of Unitarians

www.uuphilippines.org Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines

www.uu-uno.org Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

www.unitarius.hu Unitarian Church in Hungary—enter in Hungarian or English

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

www.unitarerne.dk Danish Unitarian Church—click on “info in English,” left column.

www.unitarier.de Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)—select English at top left

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

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

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