



The Global Chalice

ICUU Newsletter

www.icuu.net

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ICUU Marks Its 15th Anniversary with Vision Awards to Founders

In this season of national meetings, the ICUU is pausing briefly to look back in our history.

Our international organization is 15 years old this year, old enough to be moving into a new phase of exciting growth and development, but young enough to remember our founders. This year we are presenting a total of 15 ICUU Vision Awards to those people who had a dream about a vibrant way of connecting Unitarians and Universalists around the globe. It is a small way of saying thank you to those people who got us started.

Awards are being presented at meetings of the recipients' national organizations. It is a delight to be able to recognize our founders in this way.

It is fascinating looking back over that short period of time and wondering if they knew how fast this body and our connections would grow, thanks to the Internet? It is a great time to be engaged in this work.

So, thank you to our 15 visionaries and thank you as well to those who carry on that work today.

From Britain: Christine Hayhurst, the Rev. Cliff Reed, the Rev. David Usher

From Canada: Herman Boerma, Ellen Campbell

From European Unitarian Universalists: Gevene Hertz

From Germany: Wolfgang Jantz

From India: Carlywell Lyndogh

From the Philippines: the Rev. Rebecca Siennes

From Transylvania: the Rev. István Kovács, the Rev. Árpád Szabó

From the USA: the Rev. John Buehrens, the Rev. Polly Guild, the Rev. Ken MacLean, the Rev. Jill McAllister



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.

Next Council Meeting February 2012 in the Philippines

ICUU's historic 9th Council and Conference will be held for the first time outside North America and Europe.

South Sea Resort on Negros Island is the location for the gathering from February 7 to 12, 2012. Situated near the headquarters of the UU Church of the Philippines in Dumaguette City, this remarkable seaside hotel will offer comfortable accommodation and a picturesque setting.

At the Council, member groups convene to plan the work of ICUU and review progress. Welcoming increased interest from ministers and lay people, an open Conference will be integrated with this Council Meeting to offer opportunities for learning about the many cultures and expressions that make up our worldwide movement and to advance the objectives of ICUU through networking and collaboration.

How do we determine what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist when in different countries and cultures we differ about values such as democratic principles, the priesthood of all believers, and particular theologies?

The Conference theme “Sharing Our Faith, Transforming Our World” asks how we can “love alike” in appropriate right relationship.

Creative tension in our multi-cultural dialogue will be explored through a variety of talks, workshops and other interactive experiences focusing both on our diversity and what we have in common. Sessions will consider how the ways we express our faith can make an impact on social justice and the environment in our local communities.

The gathering will feature worship and spiritual sustenance in the style and custom of different member groups, Chalice Circles for small group sharing and participative workshops focusing on creative arts such as dance and music.

Opportunities to experience more of UUism in the Philippines will be provided through optional tours. Prior to the Council a tour will explore the Manila area and following the Conference a more rural tour will visit local congregations on Negros Island.

A one-day women's conference hosted by the Women's Convocation of International UUs will also precede the ICUU Council Meeting.

Arrangements re. program, costs, and other details are now being finalized; please refer to www.icuu.net for the latest information.

Minister's Conference and Theological Symposium

Nearly 100 U-U ministers, lay persons, and theologians gathered in July 2010 at the Rolduc Monastery in Kerkrade, the Netherlands, for two ICUU conferences – a first-time meeting of U-U ministers focusing on ministry, and the third ICUU International Theological Symposium. The depth of sharing, discussion, and collegiality left a lasting impression on those who took part. With insight from papers and discussions, the ICUU Task Force was able to revise and improve a draft of international guidelines for U-U ministry, to be presented to the next ICUU Council.

In addition, the minister's conference discussed the needs and possibilities for international internships, apprenticeships and ministers-on-loan or teaching ministers. Out of these conversations arose the possibility of an international U-U minister's network, to begin to develop and coordinate these activities. Two of the most eloquent reflections on the import of these conferences are printed below.

“This conference may have been a breakthrough of historic significance. The people of our isolated religious movements so greatly need a broader perspective. Yet, walls have separated us, even in global gatherings: Competition for power and position, pride and prejudice have characterized many meetings. At Rolduc we seemed to put all that aside, as if summoned by the holy ghosts of this ancient abbey to love, encourage, and respect one another.

Some ask of what possible use ICUU might be. We might answer: Where else is serious theological conversation taking place among clergy? Where else are the stuck places of our hierarchies being lubricated? Where else do we join in genuine multi-ethnic, multi-cultural discourse? Where else do we encounter The Other and know her humanity? Oh, to carry a large helping of this egalitarian and stressless spirit to future gatherings, which could mean changing the structure of ICUU from a congress of judicatories to something much more like what we knew in Rolduc.”

“I came away from this gathering deeply inspired by the variety of ministries that Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists are offering to their communities and the world. But most importantly I think we all shared a sense of deep commitment to each other and a vision of growing mutual support.

The future of Unitarian/Universalist global ministry, and the ties that bind our ministers together, was the sub-text of this gathering. And our time together strongly suggests that our future will be deeply dynamic, and deeply shared.”

Emerging Faith Communities

ICUU supports development of emerging and growing UU groups and movements through training, non-financial resources, and other forms of assistance in partnership with our member groups and other UU related organizations.

Africa remains a special focus. Program Director Jill McAllister offered a webinar on African issues which has led to the formation of an online discussion group for non-Africans interested in working with emerging and pre-emerging groups in Africa, which means that we have begun developing avenues for a variety of mentoring relationships.

We have continued to work closely with Kenyan UU's as they sort through the formation of a national organization. We anticipate receiving Kenya's application for ICUU membership shortly.

Similarly we have offered support to Ugandan Unitarians as they have faced LGBT challenges and to Burundians as they have formed a partner church relationship with an American congregation. UU organizations in both countries participated in Community Capacity Building workshops in April 2010, whereby they arrived at a list of community priorities. In Uganda that work has led to support of a village school, and in Burundi to a congregation-to-congregation partnership which is helping them build their own church.

Initial contacts have been made and the ICUU Secretariat has been in contact with persons interested in forming UU groups in Bahrain, Croatia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Saudia Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela and in other countries. Many of these initiatives are small and unlikely to meet ICUU's membership expectations in the near future, so a mentor scheme for small and pre-emerging groups is being developed to assist in such situations.

Consideration is being given to holding regional conferences in Europe, Central/Latin America and possibly Asia during the next several years to devote special attention to UU groups and to further development and growth in those parts of the world.

A special fund will be launched for individuals and groups who wish to donate funds to be targeted for work with emerging and pre-emerging UU groups. This has been requested by donors who have discovered giving through an organization such as ICUU can enable more effective and equitable distribution of resources.

Ministerial Training and Education

The ICUU Task Force on Ministerial Training and Education is in Year 3 of a three-year project. With the aim of increasing access to ministerial education and training for U-U groups around the world, we have worked with member groups, theological schools and others, to produce a draft of international guidelines for ministerial credentials. This year three pilot projects are underway, to demonstrate the feasibility of a variety of pathways to ministry, in and among member groups. These include:

1. The UU Church of the Philippines has just launched its own 6-year program of ministerial education and training, beginning with a five-day live-in training in church leadership and organization for lay leaders, led by staff in the UUCP National Office. The main purpose is to strengthen and upgrade the knowledge, information and the skills of the current leaders and provide opportunity to the second-liners to learn/acquire ministerial skills when they will assume leadership in the congregation. The full program includes several people continuing on for theological training at a local university.

2. The Australia New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association is in the process of developing its own standards for ministerial credentials, and hopes to design a course of study and formation for potential ministers. ICUU Program Coordinator Jill McAllister visited with ANZUUA leaders in August 2010, in Brisbane, and has been offering on-going consulting with them as they work on this project.

3. In Burundi, a short course of theological education was offered to leaders and members of the Bujumbura congregation in April 2010. In addition, a pilot project to create a cohort of ministry students in Africa will be undertaken in August 2011. The first group will be francophone, with students from groups in Burundi, Rwanda, Congo Brazzaville, and the DRC. These students will gather for a 5-day session of intensive courses in basic and comparative theology, introduction to the Bible, and introduction to UU History. Teachers and facilitators will be mostly local, with consultation from the ICUU. We hope to work with faculty at Meadville Lombard Theological School to adapt parts of the new Meadville Educational Model for supervising student peer-groups long-distance. In addition, these students will work together to design a multi-year schedule of training and education aimed at satisfying local standards for ministerial credentials, which will be under development at the same time.

The Task Force (Eric Cherry - UUA, Kinga Reka Szekely - Transylvania, Fulgence Ndagijimana - Burundi, David Keyes - UUA, Helpme Mormen - Unitarian Union of Northeast India, and Jill McAllister - ICUU Program Director) plans to deliver a final report and recommendations to the ICUU Council meeting in February 2012.

What Is a 'Webinar?'

ICUU is offering a series of online webinars to enable participation in seminars and conferences by those who may not be able to travel to a physical event. Visual and sound recordings are then made available online for those who wish to witness the events later. Two webinars have already been held and future events are in preparation. See Brian Kiely on "The Center and the Circle: The Challenge of International UU Ministry" at www.viddler.com/explore/ICUU/videos/1/ and Jill McAllister on "Africa: A New World for Emerging Unitarian Universalist Movements" at www.viddler.com/explore/ICUU/videos/2/.

ICUU Member Groups

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

Executive Committee, 2009-11

President: **Rev. Brian Kiely**, Canada
Vice President: **Pauline Rooney**, Australia
Secretary: **Rev. Dávid Gyerő**, Transylvania
Treasurer: **Rev. David Shaw**, UK
At Large: **Rev. Nihal Attanayake**, Philippines
Olufemi Matimoju, Nigeria
Rev. Celia Midgley, UK

Executive Secretary: **Rev. Steve Dick**, UK
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Member Groups' Websites

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

www.uua.org Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA) See also www.uua.org/international and www.uu-uno.org

www.unitarian.org.uk British General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

www.cuc.ca Canadian Unitarian Council

www.anzua.org/anzua_alt Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association

www.europeanuu.eu European Unitarian Universalists

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

www.uuphilippines.org Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines

www.unitarius.hu Unitarian Church in Hungary—to select English click red printing, top right column

www.unitaria.cz Religious Society of Czech Unitarians—click on USA/UK flags at top right for English content

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

www.unitarius.org Transylvanian Unitarian Church

www.unitarier.de Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)

www.netlife.fi/~nl02067/uu Unitarian Universalist Society of Finland

<http://sites.google.com/site/cristianismoliberal/> Brazilian Unitarian Association—ICUU's newest member group!

www.uuen.org Unitarian Universalist Esperanto Network—some English and Spanish content

<http://afcu.over-blog.org/> Assemblée Fraternelle des Chrétiens Unitariens includes French-speaking UU groups in Western Europe, Africa, and Canada. AFCU has been recognized by ICUU as an emerging group.

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 30 countries. Learn more about the ICUU on our website, www.icuu.net