



CROSS ROADS

NEWS OF UU COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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Member Spotlight: The Community Ministry of Esther Hurlbert, BSN, MS, MDiv

I have been in private practice as a professional geriatric nurse care manager for the past 16 years. I own ParentCareKY (www.parentcareky.com). I coordinate care and in-home support services for family members who are old or disabled. Working

with old people has been my passion since I worked in a nursing home as a kid. I am now on a mission to bring back the worth and dignity to the word "old."

ParentCareKY is one part of my community ministry. How so? Early on in my practice I met a new client. She sat down and burst into tears. She said, "I hate my mother. She abused me as a child and was always mean to me. She had boyfriends she loved more than me. Now she's living in my basement and I don't know what to do. My pastor said I have to love and honor my mother and that she has to live with me."

I nearly choked on my own sadness about this woman's dilemma. This woman was not young. She was 67 years old and worked full time as a cook's helper. She carried her grief and anger with her for too many years. This woman and I were both angry. She was angry with her mother. I was angry with her church for delivering a poorly developed and guilt-ridden theology.

This woman needed more than a list of practical suggestions. She needed someone to help her heal her wounds of fear, anger, frustration, and guilt. This situation involved more than the pragmatics of referrals; rather it involved a very painful family relationship that a clinical case management practice could not resolve. This woman needed a minister who could reassure her that she was just as worthy of receiving love and honor as her mother was worthy. She needed ministry that would give her permission to be her own person and meet her own needs while at the same time she could work to help her mother. She needed to know she was not alone in the role of caregiver and that she too was worthy of care.

This encounter was, in part, my call to develop elder-care ministry. I knew it would be a long shot that this woman would convert to Unitarian Universalism. But that did not mean that I could not take my beloved faith, my Unitarian Universalist theology of inter-dependence, love, worth and dignity, and covenant into the lives of the

people I meet every single day. At the same time I could take my knowledge and skills into our UU Movement to address the needs of old people that are often ignored in our youth oriented culture.

On most days it is impossible to separate my nursing practice from my ministry. Early on in my seminary studies, Richard Gilbert, author of *The Prophetic Imperative*, had profound influence on my ministry. It was he who reinforced that public life is where religious experiences occur and that if church ministry does not enter public life the spiritual growth of our Movement is threatened. It was he who also gave expression to what it means to wear a "seamless garment" where service and Spirit become one.

In addition to ParentCareKY, I developed two programs for congregations. *Life Care-Planning: Helping Families Through Conversation and Covenant* is a four session seminar that supplements the conventional way of planning personal affairs through the use of legal documents because its primary focus is the relationships between the care-receiver and the care-giver. *Creating a Culture of Care* is a workshop created for congregations to assist in the development of a congregational approach to care-giving so that care is delivered by "an assembly of caregivers" rather than by a committee.

And finally, with immense joy, I am in process of creating **The Legacy Home Ministry**. It's an innovative response to meeting the needs of women as they grow old. Through cooperative efforts of religious and community agencies, I'm remodeling two houses! It will be a safe, affordable, home for five elderly women of low-wealth. Women will live together by sharing space and resources so that each woman may age in community with the support of one another. See us at www.legacyhomeministry.org. A newspaper article can be viewed at: <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/05/16/1266035/new-program-seeks-safe-housing.html>

Esther earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of North Dakota and a Master in Special Education from the University of Kentucky. She earned a Master of Divinity degree Lexington Theological Seminary (Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ) in Lexington, KY. In addition to her community ministries, she is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Madison County where she preaches once a month. She is a lay pastoral care consultant for the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District of the UUA.



President's Message

By The Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles, UUSCM President

It's a pleasure to greet you all once again, this time from the pages of our more traditional newsletter, *Crossroads*.

The UUSCM Board is one of the most devoted groups of people I've met in a while. In this organization we appear to work our Board Members pretty hard, maybe even too much. But they respond because they are on the same path as the rest of us and are devoted to it--Community Ministry.

I've been a Fellowshiped UU Minister in our Association for 33 years, with 20 of those years in Community Ministry. For me, Community Ministry is just about the best ministry in the world. In my generation a lot of us prepared for ministry with the naive expectation that Unitarian Universalism was going to "take off" and become a mass-movement denomination.

When I was a young minister I firmly believed that our Enlightenment values of Freedom, Reason and Tolerance would eventually become the rule. Not that it would be easy, not that there wouldn't be setbacks, but ultimately I believed most people would be reasonable and come together to create a better society.

I don't believe that for a second anymore. Everywhere we look we see fundamentalisms of all sorts, of all faiths, of all political kinds. Partisanship seems the rule

and intolerance the guide. We're no larger a denomination than we were in my youth, in fact we're a bit smaller. It can get depressing.

But there is one place where we do see immense Unitarian Universalist vitality, and that is in our Community Ministries. There, in the interaction between ourselves and the people we serve, something creative and special happens. The widow is comforted, the addicted find the possibility of liberation, the oppressed realize that it does not always have to be so.

No, this may not "pack 'em in" on Sunday mornings in UU places of worship, but it's liberal religion in practice, delivered to where the people are who need us the most. Community Ministry proves over and over again that our healthy-minded religion works, or at least that given the right circumstances it can.

As the years have slipped past, that has been a comfort. We have something that works, and we see that most clearly in the work of the Community Minister. I believe this is a contribution to our civic and spiritual life that that will last.

It's a pleasure to be on this journey with you. We make a difference.

*Best Wishes,
Scot Giles
President, UUSCM*

UUSCM Declares the First Sunday in February as Community Ministry Sunday

We want as many Community Ministers in the pulpit as possible on February 6, 2011 and February 5, 2012.

UUSCM asks congregations to reflect upon the role Unitarian Universalists play in these times as catalysts for justice, peace and interfaith collaboration. Recognize your own congregational leaders, lift up the 9-5 ministries of lay members in the world of work, and honor UU ministers past, present and future who carry our liberal religious message beyond parish walls.

This special Sunday is inspired by the Four Chaplains of the USS *Dorchester*, who on February 3, 1943 gave up their life vests that others might live. Arms linked they prayed together and went down with the ship. The selfless actions of Rabbi Alexander Goode, Father John Washington, Rev. George Fox and Rev. Clark Poling are a legacy to all who believe it is possible to live together regardless of race, class or creed.

Resources for planning your Community Ministry Sunday observance are on our website www.uuscm.org. Please share with us your own litanies, sermons or prayers to add to our growing collection of community ministry worship resources.

For more information about the Four Chaplains, go to www.immortalchaplains.org

UUSCM Board Institutes UUSCM-Endorsed Community Ministry *By UUSCM President, The Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles*

The UUSCM board recently voted to create a UUSCM "brand" for Community Ministry.

I am a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and a Diplomat of the National Guild of Hypnotists. My ministry is a ministry of spiritual healing using the hypnotic arts and sciences, and I practice in conjunction with Chicago-area hospitals and wellness centers. Both of my certifications took a lot of time and effort to get.

But there are "hypnotism organizations" that will cheerfully train anyone on-line and will award you a fancy title in return for very little work. Such organizations are the bane of legitimate practitioners. There are similar organizations that will make one a "Certified Chaplain," and Departments of Spiritual Care in hospitals have to fend them off.

There is only one solution, and it's to create a "brand-name" that means something. The Association of Professional Chaplains has done a lot to educate the medical community to look for its certification when hiring a Chaplain. The Guild has done the same for institutions looking for a Consulting Hypnotist.

The leadership of UUSCM has a similar problem. Neither we, nor the Unitarian Universalist Association, controls the use of the terms "Community Minister" or

"Community Ministry." Anyone who wants to use them can do so. It's completely legal. The titles are in the Public Domain.

In order to protect our members from being painted with the same brush as self-proclaimed "Ministries" that have no congregational, Unitarian Universalist or other connection, we are creating a "brand-name" for our members to use.

In the future, we will use the locution "UUSCM-Endorsed Community Ministry" to refer to those ministries that are conducted by a member in good standing of UUSCM and which conform to our Code of Professional Practice.

If you are a member in good standing, and if you are also conducting your ministry in accordance with our Code of Professional Practice, you may refer to your work using that same description. We will educate the public to look for UUSCM-Endorsed Community Ministries when Community Ministry is considered. We will also educate our congregations to do the same.

The leadership of UUSCM has updated our Code of Professional Practice to make it clearer and more helpful to our membership. We'll keep you posted regarding the upcoming improvements.

UUSCM BOARD LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN *By UUSCM President, The Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles*

The Strategic...What?

If you were to sit in on any meeting of the UUSCM Board of Directors you would hear a lot about the Strategic Plan. It's central to the Board's functioning, and Vice President Bob Miess is the "Strategic Plan Tzar" with special responsibilities to insure that everyone stays on track with the Plan. There is an on-line worksheet used to coordinate deadlines and assignments and the Plan is used to structure the Board's agenda.

Those of you who attended our Annual Meeting in Minneapolis had a chance to see the Plan, and we will soon make it more widely available for your examination.

What the heck is it?

The Strategic Plan was finalized by the Board this past spring under the able leadership of Past President The Rev. Deborah Holder. Funded by a grant from the UU Funding Panel, the Board came together for several days in September 2009 with The Rev. Larry Peers, a Senior Consultant with the Alban Institute. At that working session, a vision was cast for the future work of UUSCM which includes energizing specific areas of UUSCM operations in an orderly, proactive and thoughtful way.

You have already seen some of the highlights of the Plan: expanded membership communications, the use of social networking and a renewed emphasis on Chapter

Development. But there is a lot more yet to come. As you watch UUSCM publications you will be able to see how the Plan phases in. Watch for more organizational development, progress in systematic fund-raising, a new ministry incubator and expanded membership involvement in projects.

It is unusual for the Board of Directors of any organization to undertake a voluntary and public discipline such as this. In doing so, the officers of our organization have agreed to hold themselves accountable to the membership for getting specific things done. As the goals in the Plan are specific and measurable, the Board has put itself "on the line" with the promises it has made to you. A gutsy move, by any standard.

Yet we've done it because we think you are worth it. No one works as hard as the Community Minister, often with very little recognition and thanks. You deserve the very best support we can give you. As we're all volunteers in UUSCM, we need to be sure we put our energy where it will produce the most benefit to you, and the Strategic Plan is one way we are working to insure that.

Report from General Assembly 2010: UUSCM Workshop Highlights Community-based Ministries By The Rev. Maddie Sifantus

General Assembly is a great time to highlight the diverse community ministries from across our Association. In a shift on the *Tending the Fire* workshops that UUSCM has put forth at GA for a number of years, which highlighted individual ministries, this year's workshop, "Community-Based Ministries: Out of the Box—Into the World," lifted up three community ministers but asked them to consider their call stories and focus on their relationship with their affiliate congregation. The hope was that by sharing our call stories with each other, we can gain better understanding of the variety of community ministries that exist and the motivation to serve beyond the walls of our congregations.

As many of our ministers serve in the larger world, it is hoped that they are still connected to local congregations. That connection can enable a larger impact of our values in the community and in the world, with lay people and ordained clergy, community and parish, working together to address pastoral and prophetic needs. This workshop had as an intention to increase awareness of the *Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers* (www.uuscm.org) as a useful tool for creating new connections and keeping all concerned in right relationship. As such, it was hoped that participants would understand the critical importance of initiating and maintaining relationships of mutual accountability and trust.

Facilitated by former UUSCM Co-President Maddie Sifantus and outgoing President Deborah Holder, the panel included UUA Credentialing Director, David Pettee, Don Robinson, the Founder of Beacon House Community Ministries in Washington D.C., and Margie King Saphier who is Associate Minister for Pastoral Care at the First Parish of Concord, MA.

David Pettee spoke of his early groundbreaking in the area of the possibility of the relationship between the

community minister and a congregation. He spoke of how he had never felt called to be a parish minister but rather to pastoral and hospice work. Along the way he became very involved in his district minister's association. He did work with Jody Shipley and others in consideration of the importance of Affiliation in the mid-1990's. Since working at the UUA, he has joined other community ministers there working to staff our association and has an interest in how community ministry needs to be part of the institution, even as it works "out of the box."

Don Robinson talked about the founding and running of Beacon House (www.beaconhousedc.org), building it from scratch to the very active organization it is today. Beacon House is a neighborhood-based organization that supports at-risk youth and families of the Edgewood Terrace community in Washington, D.C. and offers educational, cultural, recreational and athletic programs. He spoke about how his relationship with the area congregations brings Beacon House volunteers and financial support.

Margie King Saphier spoke about her call to ministry and how it has led her down many different paths, including becoming one of the few community ministers to have been installed in a congregation as she was at United First Parish Church in Quincy, MA. Her ministry includes hospice work, chaplaincy, and serving on the board of Partakers, a prison ministry.

In Unitarian Universalist polity, the importance of cultivating relationships with local congregations and districts cannot be overstated. It is hoped that those in the workshop and those reading this at home will download the *Guide to Affiliation* from the UUSCM website and use it in creating closer ties and new energy to enliven the community ministries which are addressing our world's greatest needs.

Join us in wishing a fond farewell and BIG THANK YOU to outgoing President Deborah Holder who completed her three year term as President of UUSCM in June, 2010, and six years of service on the UUSCM Board.

Deborah was presented with a plaque commemorating her outstanding service at UUSCM's Annual Breakfast meeting in Minneapolis.

Membership Moments

By The Rev. Michelle Walsh, Membership Director

Greetings Everyone!

If we have your email address, you will have noticed by now that we are in the process of developing a new communications strategy with our membership, one that involves a constant contact style brief newsletter you will be receiving more frequently than the Crossroads newsletter which is published three times per year.

Your UUSCM board is working hard to develop new policies and protocols to enhance professional services to and accountability practices for community ministry within our larger Unitarian Universalist movement. This new communications strategy will be our way to keep you up-to-date with planned changes. If you have not received at least two of these new constant contact newsletters in the past month, that means we do not have an up-to-date email address for you. Please send your email address ASAP to your UUSCM administrator, Connie Yost, at revconnie@comcast.net. If you have not renewed membership, I strongly encourage you to do so ASAP since those who have not sent in their annual dues will be dropped from our membership lists and communication by November 1st.

We will be changing and updating our current UUSCM website (www.uuscm.org) in the near future as well. As you renew your membership, please also take the time to develop a website profile for yourself and your ministry. If you go to the current membership page on our website, you will see that many members have highlighted names that take you to a page with their picture and a description of their community ministry. We hope to have such a page for every member on our list, so please be in touch with your UUSCM administrator to create such a page or update one that you have.

Finally, we still need your help to find out who is actively organizing community ministers in chapters out there. We have a few areas in which chapter coordination is thriving, but many others where it seems to be more challenging or where we are not aware of meetings you may be having. Please be in touch with me directly ASAP if you have an interest in being a chapter coordinator in your area and experience yourself as having strong links to community ministers in your area. I would also like to know what you are experiencing as your successes as well as your needs or challenges.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Michelle Walsh, MSW, LICSW
walsh_michelle@msn.com

*Journeying god,
Pitch your tent with mine
So that I may not become deterred
By hardship, strangeness, doubt.
Show me the movement I must make
Toward a wealth not dependent on possessions,
Toward a wisdom not based on books,
Toward a strength not bolstered by might.
Toward a god not confined to heaven.
Help me to find myself as I walk in other's shoes.*

Prayer Song from Ghana, traditional, translator unknown

UPDATE YOUR WEB BIO

**Take a moment now to review your bio on our website.
Send your updated bio and pic to Admin. Connie by Oct. 28.**

www.uuscm.org -- revconnie@comcast.net

Membership Renewals Were Due July 1, 2010

\$75 regular, \$37.50 hardship, \$22.50 student

Pay online at www.uuscm.org

Remember, UUSCM members can deduct \$50 from your UUMA dues

According to our bylaws, unpaid members will be dropped on November 1.

Please stay with us!

Please take a moment now to renew your dues. You may renew online at www.uuscm.org or send your check to Administrator Connie at the address on the last page of this newsletter. Dues remain the same for 2010-11 at \$75.00. Hardship dues are \$37.50 (please download and fill out the waiver form on the website and mail it to the Administrator). Student dues are \$22.50 (with waiver form and copy of student ID). New members can fill out the membership application online, print it and mail it to the Administrator. Questions? Contact UUSCM Membership Director Rev. Michelle Walsh [walsh_michelle at msn.com](mailto:walsh_michelle@msn.com)



UUSCM Chapter News

The UUSCM Pacific Northwest Chapter held their fifth Community Ministry retreat on September 11. Chapter Coordinator Connie Yost reports that 12 community ministers met in Olympia, Washington for an all-day Saturday retreat that included worship, check-in, UUSCM update and discussion about the ways we want to promote community ministry within our district. In the afternoon we broke into small groups to consider the question:

"Whose are we?"

PNWD community ministers will meet again at the April 8-11, 2011 UUMA retreat which is scheduled for Friday-Monday in Mt. Angel, OR to accommodate the schedules of our many community ministers.

Seventeen New Members Brings Membership Total to 162

We extend our hearty welcome to our new members

Christie Anderson, Rev. Eliza Blanchard, Karla Brockie, Kathleen Fowler, Rev. Clyde Grubbs, Beverly J. Harries, Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen, Rev. Laura Imayoshi, Dr. Lyssa Jenkins, Rev. Mary L. Knight, Rev. Dan Larsen, Joy-Ellen Lipsky, Paula Maiorano, Patrick McLaughlin, Mark S. Richards, Dr. Brent A. Smith, Tess Starcheski

Member Milestones

The Rev. Jeanelyse Adams was ordained on September 19, at the Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, CA.

The Rev. Jill M. Bowden reports that after four years' service as Director of Pastoral Care and Education at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola NY, she moved to a new position as Director of Chaplaincy Services at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. "It is a fabulous hospital and the opportunity of this chaplain's lifetime, and I am thrilled to have been asked to be a part of the ministry of this wonderful team of chaplains."

The Rev. Amy E. Brooks has left her ministry with the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network in Charlotte, NC after

more than 14 years. She is currently enrolled in a fellowship program with the GreenFaith organization of New Brunswick, NJ, thereby pursuing her lifelong concern for the environment. Amy continues to provide sabbatical support to several area UU congregations and co-facilitate the "Souls of White Folks" program through Mecklenburg Ministries.

Mark DeCourval recently completed a 12 week intensive and challenging CPE unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Charlotte Droogan has been very involved in an interfaith organization called Warehouse Workers for Justice. She writes, "We are defending the rights of workers to form unions to fight for fair wages, full-time employment, worker's compensation when injured and all the other things that most of us take for granted when starting a new job. This campaign began when 70 Bissell warehouse workers were fired last November for trying to form a union to fight these rather common practices. The clergy of Joliet, IL sent out a call for the support of our community churches and my church was one of the first to respond. We now have about twenty people from our church working actively to expose these injustices and pushing local politicians to get involved."

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Emerson has completed a two-year interim parish ministry with the UU congregation in Billerica and continues as community minister with Rainbow Solutions in Medford, MA, and as coordinator of the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial. In addition she is now working on a memoir on the 1960s. She is actively seeking

opportunities to preach and offer educational programs in congregations and community organizations.

The Rev. Sue Henshaw started a part-time hospice chaplaincy with Compassionate Care in Sussex and Warren Counties in New Jersey.

We're glad to hear that **David Gilmartin**, one of the official "Friends of UUSCM" has now moved to new quarters in Eugene, Oregon. David's pastoral ministry continues in the new location and we wish him every good fortune.

The Rev. Bill Holden was one of three University of Minnesota heart transplant patients that were honored by the Second Chance for Life Foundation in July as founders of the transplant family support organization. Bill writes, "When it was formed, spouses were eating off their mate's hospital tray because they had to feed the children with what little resources they had. We changed all that."

The Rev. Alyson Jacks celebrated her 8th year with A Home Away from Homelessness in August. Home Away provides educational, recreational and support services to children and youth who are or have been homeless in San Francisco and Marin. She's also excited about her upcoming sabbatical in May 2011 when she'll embark on a six-week bicycle adventure. This trip follows Adventure Cycling's "Underground Railroad" route, riding through: Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, up-state New York and into Hamilton Ontario Canada. If you live in these areas and are interested in joining Alyson or hosting her for a night (should you live close to the bike route), she would love to hear from you [alyson at homeaway.org](http://alyson.at.homeaway.org).

The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is now interim parish minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, CT. He is excited to be working with the congregation which, over the past five years, moved into a new building and concluded a long-tenured ministry. It is now positioned to envision its future. He continues to serve as affiliated community minister at the Community Church of New York, with an emphasis on multifaith and social justice outreach, and as consulting parish minister with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palisades, a multiracial congregation in Englewood, NJ.

The Rev. Jackie Kelly moved to the beautiful city of Boise, Idaho in June to become the new CPE Supervisor at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. She is currently an Associate Supervisor and plans to meet with the ACPE Certification Committee next year to request certification as a Full ACPE Supervisor.

The Rev. Rick Klimowicz is teaching a World Religions Class this Fall at the UU Church in Meriden, CT. He is also facilitating an Affinity Group for UU's who identify with a somewhat traditional, theological orientation and who want to grow, both emotionally and spiritually. Class will explore improving spiritual self care, living with loss, resolving spiritual conflicts, identifying and using resources, setting and pursuing goals, and discovering greater meaning and purpose in our lives.

The Rev. Dale Lantz retired in June 2009 after many years of service as a UU minister, hospice chaplain and United

Methodist pastor. But he is discovering that he is becoming busier than ever in his community ministry at the Women's Dorm of the Baltimore City jail. As the Affiliated Community Minister of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, he participates in the Pastoral Associates Team. In addition, he works with the Social Action Clearinghouse, helping them to develop their own ministries (including support for re-entering ex-offenders) as they discern their own calls, based on their gifts and talents. Together, they are developing a working relationship with a community group--"Power Inside"-- which engages women on the streets of Baltimore to help them use their own gifts and power to escape the grind of poverty and abuse that too often traps them. He can be reached at the CreativeSpirit Focusing Center at [delawarefocusing at yahoo.com](http://delawarefocusing.at.yahoo.com).

Joy-Ellen Lipsky is helping to create a proposal for an inter-religious council under the auspices of the San Jose Police Department to promote communications and relationship building between the SJPD and faith communities. She is also helping in the creation of a new inter-religious organization in Silicon Valley which will include not only faith communities, but also non-profits, education, government, and business organizations. She is also in the process of creating the San Jose State University Campus' UU student organization, as well as growing an interfaith student organization.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Speck celebrated 10 years as the District Executive of the Joseph Priestley District on September 1. "I'm the longest serving DE for this district."

The Rev. Bruce Taylor was married to Loretta Hubley, an artist and fellow UU on August 21, 2010. He began a settled ministry at First Parish Church in Billerica, MA on August 22. He writes that they are merging stuff from two households into one with no end in sight!

CROSSROADS

The UU Society for Community Ministries, Inc.
c/o The Rev. Connie Yost, Administrator
4359 Alderbrook Ave SE

Salem, OR 97302

Did you know that we have a Community Ministry Song?

***Thank You for Your
Loving Hands
By Judy Fjell***

Thank you for your loving
hands
Your loving heart, your
loving ways
Thank you for the gifts
you bring into the world
each day.

And if you ever doubt
yourself
Remember us who love
you well
We know all the gifts you
bring into the world each

(Community Ministry RX: Sing to

yourself at least once daily)