



CROSSROADS

NEWS OF UU COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Volume 8, No. 3

Fall 2009



Member Spotlight: *The Community Ministry of The Rev. C. Scot Giles, D.Min., BCC, DNGH*

I was an early “official” Community Minister in the UUA. I graduated from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in 1978 wanting to do a ministry in “Religion and Health” from the start. My fantasy had been to base a ministry on some sort of mind/body work.

I’d done some coursework in hypnotism and altered states of consciousness, and was excited about the possibilities.

In those days the UUA required all clergy to have at least three years of parish experience in order to obtain endorsement for any sort of “larger ministry,” so I dutifully went off to serve a small church for three years. After three years an invitation to return to the Chicago area arrived from a larger congregation and I accepted. I would serve that congregation for ten years where I focused my continuing education in mind/body therapy.

As I was back in Chicago I had the opportunity to do a two-year post-doctoral program in hypnotism with a center connected to one of the major hospitals. Following that training, I began a period of experimentation and became known in the Chicago area as someone who was exploring new uses for the hypnotic arts and sciences.

Typically hypnotism was used as a tool in psychotherapy. I wanted to see if it could be used to assist in physical healing. There were nine women in my congregation with

breast cancer and they asked for my help. With their physician’s consent I began a program of hypnotism intended to help them realize the maximum benefit from their chemotherapy. All nine did much better than anyone thought they would, and the physicians wanted to send other patients. Within a few years this took over my career and I departed the parish for full-time community ministry.

These days I see private clients from my home office for a schedule of fees. This revenue produces the funding that pays my salary, but also funds a research program at LaGrange Memorial Hospital into hypnotism and cancer care. Additionally, I maintain four free clinics where I see up to 100 cancer patients each month in an arc around Chicago in cooperation with the University of Chicago Medical Center, Little Company of Mary Hospital and two major Wellness Centers. I also maintain a program of community education on the medical uses of hypnotism.

I became a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, and an officer of the National Guild of Hypnotists. I designed the curriculum used by the Guild to teach hypnotists how to do medical work, and I hold the clinical rank of Diplomate of the National Guild of Hypnotists, which is the highest level one can earn. I am endorsed by Countryside UU Church in Palatine, Illinois, and my practice is a ministry of that congregation.

If you wish to know more about my work, feel free to check out my web site at www.CSGiles.org.

A Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers Now Online

UUSCM and the Ministry and Professional Leadership Group (MPL), with input from the UUMA, collaborated on this document which debuted at GA 2009. The purpose of this document is to aid parish ministers and congregations in understanding the need for, the benefits of, and the process of affiliating with a community minister. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) requires that all community ministers in Preliminary Fellowship have a formal affiliation with a UU congregation or organization. A second document will be published in Spring 2010 which will be aimed towards community ministers and seminarians interested in community ministry.

The *Guide* can be found on our website www.uuscm.org. It contains links to other websites and a resource section listing books and other resources that are of value to those seeking to understand community ministry and the process of affiliation. Please send any input, ideas or issues you wish to be addressed, and resources that you find helpful to msifantus@uuma.org. Hearing from our members will help shape these documents

The Call of Stories: We Build the Road As We Travel

By UUSCM President, The Rev. Deborah Holder

When was the last time you sat together in a group or with another and shared the story of your call to community ministry? A part of my story was unexpectedly called forth by a UU musician from Jamaica Plain I had the joy of working with during UU University in June. Matt and some other students intend to start a UU housing cooperative in Jamaica Plain; they've already "translated" the international cooperative movement's principles into each of our UU principles. Months later, my heart still sings thinking about UU young adults modeling for high school youth in their congregation a truly counter-cultural and generative way of being in the world grounded in the practice of their UU identity. I feel grateful to Matt and friends for allowing me a chance to contribute to their vision of a better world.

I'm pretty sure the pioneers of our UU community ministry movement felt similarly twenty-one years ago this month at Meadville Lombard on the night of November 21, 1988. It was then that the founders of our UU Society for Community Ministries came together to craft and sign their names to the **Community Ministry Covenant** including: **Neil Shadle, Carolyn McDade, Mel Hoover, Linda Hart, James Zacharias, Spenser Lavan, Stephanie Nichols, John Weston, Neil Gerdes, Orloff Miller, Cheng Imm Tan, Roberta King Mitchell, and Susie Pangrel** to name a few...you can find the full list on the website, www.uuscm.org. I reflect on that candle-lit ritual every November and am grateful to them all for cutting a path so that the many who came afterwards, could answer our call to community ministry. Today, all kinds of specialized public ministries have continued to spark the imagination of rising generations of Unitarian Universalists. Whether in the form of chaplains, campus ministers, academics, community organizers, consultants, UUA staff, spiritual directors, justice and cultural workers, Community-based ministry is a vital and growing contemporary expression of our radical Unitarian Universalist tradition.

It's looking like this is going to be yet another

watershed year for community ministry with the recent election of Rev. Peter Morales and his commitment to changing the culture of Unitarian Universalism and creating a new ministry inclusive of community ministers. We also have cause to celebrate the recent publication of the **first-ever institutionally endorsed handbook** (UUSCM, UUA, UUMA) for helping parish-based colleagues and their congregations' leadership understand the value and practice of affiliating with a community minister (www.uuscm.org). Supported by a grant to UUSCM from the UU Funding Panel, *A Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers* is soon to be supplemented by a second UUSCM publication designed to support community ministers on the path to ministerial fellowship.

At General Assembly we launched the first comprehensive UUSCM fundraising plan, "**Framing the Future of Community Ministry.**" Also supported in part by the UU Funding Panel and a generous major donor, **each and every contribution to UUSCM, including membership fees for service will be matched dollar for dollar between now and June, essentially doubling the amount you give to the future of UU community-based ministries.**

Following up on this initiative, you're likely to hear from your Board pals and other committed UUSCM members in the near future. Assisted by the fabulous UU senior Alban Institute consultant, The Reverend Larry Peers, UUSCM leadership is finalizing an action plan that will help to create many more sustainable and inheritable UU community ministries. All of these evolving, compassionate, liberating, prophetic ministries are at the very heart of our religious tradition, helping to usher in a variety of new and complementary approaches to ministry. **Won't you join us?**



Honoring Those Who Came Before Us – Make A Gift

If you would like to honor and publicly recognize a mentor that gave inspiration and support to your community ministry, you can do that by including a note as to your intention in the return envelope enclosed with the UUSCM appeal letter you received recently. We'll publish the list in the next edition of *Crossroads*. Please provide contact information and we'll let them know a gift has been made in their name. *The Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministries (UUSCM) is an independent tax-exempt 501(c)(3) professional organization. All contributions are tax-deductible and very much appreciated.*

General Assembly 2009 -- Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City was a gorgeous place to be together if only for a short time with enjoyable opportunities to share a meal and experience together some great local jazz musicians.

UUSCM sponsored another plethora of forums and workshops including one during **CENTER Days -- Practical Theology for Professional Community: A Model**. The mission and purpose of the Community Ministry Committee of the Mountain Desert District is to provide a peer support and accountability structure for fellowshipped UU ministers. The Committee also serves to facilitate congregational participation and benefit from the skills, programs, and activities of professional ministers serving in the district. Participants were introduced to the model's theory, history, and recent practices followed by an actual experience of the peer review process. Many thanks to the Reverend Nancy Bowen, District Executive for the MDD (subject) along with presenters Revs. Jim Zacharias and Nadine Swahnberg; and Review Committee members: Jim Turner (MDD Board); and Revs. Jann Halloran, Debbie Highsmith, and Tom Goldsmith. **For more information and downloadable Peer Review and Committee resources, visit the website at www.uuscm.org**

During Friday evening's **Service of the Living Tradition, fourteen (14) with a community-ministry specialty received final fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist**

ministry: *Mary Earl, Deborah Highsmith, Deborah Holder, Francesca Hughes, Jackie Kelly, Harlan Limpert, Cheryl Lloyd, Phil Lund, Sarah Gibb Millsbaugh, Barbara Molfese, Eric Ness, Ron Robinson, Susan Vollmer, and Robin Zucker.*

Tending the Fire VII: Community Ministers in Action is always a popular opportunity to hear about effective models for building sustainable and inheritable ministries. This year we learned from Rev. Connie Yost who established a ministry with at-risk youth with the support of several California congregations; Rev. Cheryl LeShay developed and practices Campus and Young Adult ministry in Massachusetts; and Rev. Michelle Walsh is now working on a doctoral degree after serving with Boston UU Urban Ministry. Many thanks to former UUSCM vice-president, Rev. Dale Lantz, for facilitating.

UUSCM's GA Breakfast and Annual Meeting was at capacity and offered membership and friends the opportunity to network and hear reports on collaboration with UUA Ministry and Professional Leadership staff group. Many thanks to Revs. Beth Miller, Jory Agate, Maddie Sifantus, and Robin Tanner for the energy they gave to producing the much-needed *A Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers*.

Community Ministers and the Fifth Principle Task Force

By The Rev. Michelle A. Walsh, MSW, LICSW



A new proposal is heading to 2010 General Assembly, which has the potential to make a huge impact on community ministers and our movement. This proposal has been developed by the Fifth Principle Task Force, a task force appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees to examine UUA governance and how well we are implementing our

fifth principle commitment to democratic processes. The current proposal examines the possibility of going to biennial General Assemblies, fostering regional meetings, and **reducing the allotted delegates from each congregation, including restricting delegate voting by fellowshipped ministers to one per congregation.** This proposal would entail a rollback for fellowshipped

community ministers who are currently entitled to a delegate vote if they are in affiliate status with a congregation, unless the settled parish minister decides to yield her or his vote to the fellowshipped community minister.

I encourage you to review the Task Force report at: http://www.uua.org/documents/boardtrustees/5thprinciple/0906_presentation.pdf

You can also join two new UUA email lists to be updated regularly on UUA plans (created to improve transparency) and to follow and give feedback on the Task Force proposal recommendations for General Assembly:

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uua-ga>
<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uua-updates>

Send me your comments walsh_michelle@msn.com or post on the UUSCM listserv at uuscm@lists.uua.org. Chime in with your viewpoints! The time is now!



Lay Community Ministry Working Group

The UU Society for Community Ministries currently has 18 lay members. If you are one of them, you can expect a friendly phone call from a member of the Lay Community Ministry Working Group in the near future. The working group is seeking to deepen our

connections and our understanding of Lay Community Ministry needs. Then we will be taking action to see that those needs are being met. If you haven't been contacted yet, and you are doing Lay Community Ministry, let us know by contacting Bob Miess, Chair of the Lay Community Ministry Working Group at Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com or 408-781-7073.

UUMA GUIDELINES

The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association is currently reviewing its professional guidelines. UUSCM member The Reverend Jeanne Lloyd serves on the committee and asked the UUSCM Board for input on the most recent set of proposed revisions. On review the Board saw a clear need for changes in language that would reflect the evolving relationships among parish and community ministers. A slate of proposed changes was drafted into a memo and forwarded to Jeanne who will share them with the committee.

The memo's central theme was captured in this quote. "The

Board, especially its UUMA members, is concerned with the almost exclusive reference to congregation-based ministries. We urge the committee's careful consideration to the use of language that is more inclusive of all forms of ministry because many of the document's topics are relevant to all forms of our shared practice. Below are the specific changes we are proposing for this revision process. You will also find brief explanations of our reasoning behind the proposals." Copies of the memo are available to any UUSCM member. Please contact Keith Goheen at kgoheen@uuma.org or call 302-645-3759 to place a request.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

This on-campus course offered Spring 2010 will give an overview of the theological, institutional and practical aspects of Unitarian Universalist community ministry. We will explore community ministry from the perspective of history, theology, polity, ministerial call, settlement, relationships to congregations and the denomination, anti-oppression and community ministry in other religious traditions. The course will be taught by the Reverend Maddie Sifantus who is a graduate of ANTS and liaison from the UUA to the UU students at ANTS, and UUSCM board member. For information about registering for the course, visit www.ants.edu. Current seminarians and special students are encouraged to register.

UUMA News

Ten community ministers, representing a variety of UUMA chapters, had lunch at GA 2009 with Kathleen McTigue of the UUMA Exec. She said the Exec is studying the experience of community ministry members in four areas. She asked us what our experiences were in these areas in order to determine our needs in our UUMA chapters. The four areas are: 1) Communication. Who are the community ministers? 2) Direct physical accessibility to insure that all chapter meetings are accessible; 3) Timing of retreats. Everyone at the lunch said the timing of UUMA retreats during the work week made it difficult to impossible to attend; 4) Cost of dues and retreat. Most CMs don't have

professional expenses paid for by their employer or affiliated congregation. Kathleen concluded the meeting by saying that by June 2010 she will offer trainings for chapter leaders to address these issues.

UUMA members voted in a new dues structure at the business meeting at GA 2009. If you have concerns about the new dues structure, UUMA President Rob Eller-Isaacs advises the following: if it's a technical question (e.g. how to figure out where you are in the structure), contact Administrator Janette Lallier. If it's a broader concern, contact Rob or Acting Executive Director Don Southworth.

Join UUSCM Today!

Join with your UU Community Ministry colleagues as we network and learn from each other, and educate and advocate for Community Ministry. Just follow the easy instructions for joining on our website www.uuscm.org. Questions? Contact UUSCM Administrator Rev. Connie Yost at 503-385-2135 or revconnie@comcast.net.

Benefits of UUSCM Membership: Service, Education & Advocacy

Institutionalized cross-sector representation and advocacy of community ministry interests include:

- A voice with the UUA Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Group (MPL) and the UU Minister's Association (UUMA);
- Collaboration with MPL and UUMA in the publication of *A Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers*, and a guide for affiliation for community ministers to be published in Spring 2010;
- A network of mutual support through the UUSCM District Chapters;
- A new and exciting website promoting Community Ministry and providing valuable resources -- check it out at www.uuscm.org;
- *Crossroads* newsletter;
- The UUSCM List-Serve for networking, sharing ideas, processing happenings, exploring issues and connecting with peers;
- A Good Offices Person providing individual support when your way is rough or your stress is high;
- Annual workshops at General Assembly raising awareness and providing helpful information about community ministry to congregational leaders and UUSCM members;
- Visibility at our GA booth (We raise Community Ministry awareness to over 4,000 UU's and help you display *your* ministries);
- Regional face to face gatherings including district annual meetings and workshops and UUSCM chapter retreats;
- UUSCM activist leadership.

Nineteen New Members Join UUSCM

We extend our hearty welcome to our new and renewing members

Rev. Meredith Anderson, Rev. Nancy Bowen, Lucy Bunch, Peggy Clarke, Rev. Elizabeth Curtiss, Rev. Dr. Florence Gelo, Rev. Debbie Highsmith, Diana Hultgren, Catherine Ishida, Carol Loadman-Copeland, Rev. Phillip Lund, Julia McKay, Rev. Eric Ness, Rev. Patti Pomerantz, Rev. Ron Robinson, Rev. Catherine Senghas, Rev. Tina Simpson, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, Melissa Thomson

UUSCM Chapter News: Community Ministers Gather in the Pacific Northwest District

By The Rev. Connie Yost, UUSCM Board Member and PNW Chapter Coordinator

Nineteen community ministers gathered for the 3rd Annual PNWD Community Ministry Retreat in Olympia, Washington on September 13. The one day retreat was full of mutual support, learning from each other and strategizing about our future together. We discussed community ministry in our congregations, district and within the UUA. We discussed the recently published *A Guide to Affiliation for UU Congregations and Parish Ministers* and noted items for feedback to UUSCM board member Maddie Sifantus. We broke into small groups and discussed the theological foundation of our ministry; chaplaincy; social justice ministry; and self-care/balance/boundaries. We got an

update on the recent UUMA dues increase and changes surrounding Center Days.

We concluded the retreat by organizing ourselves into work groups to address: 1) UUMA collegial conversations and timing of UUMA retreats; 2) Publicity and outreach within the district; 3) Community Ministry workshop and exhibit table at the annual district meeting; 4) UUSCM chapter resources; and 5) Affiliation. We hope to meet again in March for a spiritual renewal retreat. If you would like ideas on how to organize a retreat in your chapter, please contact me at revconnie@comcast.net or 503-385-2135.

Member Milestones

The Revs. Jade Angelica and Darrick Jackson, and Laura Randall, sponsored by the UU Fellowship of Dubuque, Iowa, received a \$13,000 start up grant from the Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel for their Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry. The first project of the ministry is to offer training in Creative, Effective and Compassionate Alzheimer's Care for pastoral care teams from UU Churches in New England and Iowa. The first program, scheduled for October 24, 2009, will be for MBD congregations at Follen Church in Lexington, MA. The goal is to begin offering the pastoral care team training for districts around the country by Fall, 2010. Healing Moments represents the first Alzheimer's training to be offered through a religious organization. For more information about this innovative community ministry, go to <http://healingmoments.org/>

The Rev. J.D. Benson was granted final fellowship at the September 2009 meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. She completed a chaplaincy residency at Georgetown University Hospital in August.

Sally Benson serves as grant coordinator for a small foundation that supports youth, the environment and post-conflict reconciliation. They have disbursed over a million dollars to projects which reflect our UU Principles. She has just returned from a reunion of civilian agricultural and education workers with International Voluntary Services with which she once served. She writes that "My experience with war has informed my life and ministry."

The Rev. Amy Brooks recently adopted her daughter, Evelyn, from China. She writes that she is a joy!

The Rev. Brian Clougherty achieved his license as a Professional Counselor in North Carolina on June 18th. Then he landed a position as Therapist with Solutions Counseling Services in Durham, NC, where he lives. He says it's good to be out of case management -- "it's juggling too many balls at once for me." Plus, his position pays 33% more. This comes just in time, he says, as his wife is working half-time, due to a hopefully temporary disability.

The Rev. Elz Curtiss recently completed the bicentennial history for First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont. She is learning how to help congregations write and celebrate their histories from the perspectives of inclusion and evolutionary identity, with the goal of deepening the meaning of their covenant together.

The Rev. Rudra Vilius Dundzila, Ph.D., D.Min. has been appointed Associate Dean of Instruction for Harry S Truman College (City Colleges of Chicago-CCC). Previously, he was Professor of Humanities and Comparative Religion. He is also Adjunct Faculty for the Graduate School of Professional Studies at Roosevelt University in Chicago, and the Starr King School for Ministry in Berkley, CA. He is advisor for the BGLT Student Group and the Interfaith Youth Core.

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy May Emerson is currently serving as coordinator for the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial in 2010. UU congregations and community organizations are encouraged to participate and will find resources at www.margaretfuller.org. She has also recently published *Becoming Women of Wisdom: Marking the Passage into the Crone Years*, for which she served as co-creator and publisher. This curriculum for women entering or past menopause empowers women to examine their lives and make the most of their later years. Available at www.uuwr.org.

The Rev. Will Feinberg celebrated serving 10 years with Hospice Care Network, Woodbury, New York in September. Hospice work is not for everyone, but Rev. Will experiences such joy and satisfaction in his work that he thanks God for strengthening him in this ministry. Will works in Suffolk County and on some days can travel as far as 80 miles to visit patients in their homes, in skilled nursing facilities, in group homes, in hospitals, in assisted living facilities, and in the hospice in-patient facility. His patients range in age from 1 month to 103 years. His patient census hovers at 42 patients, and it's never just about the client but also about ministry to their family. Rev. Will feels grateful to work with a dedicated interdisciplinary team of social workers, nurses, dietician, volunteer coordinator, team manager, and medical director. He offers weekly mindfulness meditation to the staff. He works with the pastoral care department manager and the 8 other chaplains on staff to provide remembrance services that are open to families, staff, and the wider community. www.hospicecarenetwork.org

In September of 2009, **The Rev. Keith Goheen**, chaplain at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes, DE, received the hospital's "You Make the Difference" Award. Keith was nominated by the nursing supervisors and selected for the honor by a committee of hospital staff members from a pool of candidates. The award recognizes the personal commitment, dedication and performance of the honoree. The letter of commendation reads in part: "You have a gift, Keith, for knowing what a patient or family needs in order to handle the most difficult of situations. Not only do you possess the intuition, but the extreme sensitivity that patients and families have come to cherish when you make your daily rounds."

On October 9, 2010, Union Theological Seminary bestowed its Unitas Distinguished Alumni/ae Award on **The Rev. Debra W. Haffner**, the Executive Director of the Religious Institute.

The Rev. Tony Johnson continues to serve as Affiliated Minister at the Community Church of New York, where he teaches adult classes, provides pastoral care, preaches occasionally, engages in community outreach, and represents the Church in interfaith and social justice activities. His demonstration project for the DMin in ministry in multifaith settings at New York Theological Seminary

focuses on the relationships among five diverse faith groups meeting in Community Church's buildings. On October 1st, he began a half-time consulting ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palisades in Englewood, New Jersey. At home in Orange, New Jersey, he and his wife, Jody Leight, teach in the University of Orange, a free people's university they helped to found.

The Rev. Kurt A. Kuhwald is in his second year as Core Faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry. With the death of Patti J. Lawrence, beloved lay professor, UU activist, and esteemed colleague, he has assumed complete responsibility for the Ministerial Internship program at the School. As Faculty Intern Professor, he is also responsible for designing and chairing a two day gathering for Interns and their supervisors that is held in January. This Fall, he is teaching a course called "Dismantling White Privilege (in a Dying Patriarchy)" that is based on the seven week curriculum created by our colleague The Rev. Bill Gardiner. That curriculum is called "The Whiteness Curriculum" and it is available to you all.

This summer, along with continuing his work with the steering committee of the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (ICWJ) and the Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice Board of Trustees (CLUE), he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the UU Legislative Ministry of California (UULM). "All in all, I am entering, in my 66th year, a time of grace and activism that is wonderful and surprising. As they say on the street: "I am blessed."

The Rev. Barbara Meyers produced the following videos as part of her mental health ministry:

- Integrated Mental Health Care
- Recovering in a Therapeutic Farm Community
- Famous People with Mental Illness
- Mental Health in Transition-Aged Youth (ages 16-24)

These videos can be watched on line at:

www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/mentalTVshow.html

The Rev. Maddie Sifantus has been Acting Director of MUSE (Music Serving Elders) since she left her position as Founder and Director of the Golden Tones elder chorus in August 2008 after twenty years. MUSE is celebrating 35 years since its founding by lyric tenor Paul W. Wiggin, bringing song, service and spirit to underserved audiences, especially those in nursing homes. MUSE is establishing of the Paul W. Wiggin "Gift of Song" Scholarship at the Andover Newton Theological School. This scholarship will encourage the community ministry of arts and song with service. A new website is being launched at www.museinc.org.

On Saturday, November 21 at 3:00 PM all are invited to a special concert in Wilson Chapel at Andover Newton: Forever MUSE—A Celebration of Thirty-Five Years. A highpoint will be the awarding of the first Paul W. Wiggin Scholarship to a qualified seminarian. Tickets to the concert are \$20 and will benefit the scholarship fund. For more information, check the website or email maddie@museinc.org or call 508-358-7091.

The Rev. Barbara Stevens received Association of Professional Chaplains Board Certification. She is a chaplain at Providence, Portland, Oregon and has started a private pastoral counseling practice.

The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Taylor's book, Wisdom of Your Dreams: Using Dreams To Tap Into Your Unconscious And Transform Your Life was released October 15, 2009. This is an updated, expanded edition of Where People Fly and Water Runs Uphill. In the last chapter of Where People Fly Jeremy looked at the role dreams play in reflecting and expanding the dreamer's individual consciousness and self-awareness. In the new book, he has added a chapter beyond this which extends these ideas into the area of the evolution of collective human awareness. Psychologist Carl Jung was right: "collective human consciousness evolves only in individual instances." The specific moments when this happen are reflected in our dreams.

UUSCM Declares the First Sunday in February as CM Sunday

We want as many Community Ministers in the pulpit as possible on February 7, 2010

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

CROSSROADS

The UU Society for Community Ministries, Inc.
c/o The Rev. Connie Yost, Administrator
4359 Alderbrook Ave SE
Salem, OR 97302

From Your UUSCM Good Officer by The Rev. Patricia Shelden, M.Div.

From time to time I have heard grumbling and wondering why anyone thought it was a good idea for Community Ministers to be connected to a congregation. I mean, really, can any Parish Minister fully understand how hard it can be to be a Community Minister and be truly supportive of us. My view on this stems from the locations of my Community Ministry.

First, I served in a Children's Hospital and was the only Unitarian Universalist in a Department comprised of assorted Christian religions. There was one CPE student who was an UU and I almost glued myself to her. People were respectful of our faith tradition but I still felt alone. My saving grace was in fulfilling my agreed upon ministry in the parish. I could breathe in more deeply and feel less alone. Next I worked in an office setting in which I was the only person offering ministry while others worked their businesses. Had it not been for my Affiliated church, the

loneliness and sense of displacement would have been overpowering some days. I missed my people. In both situations the covenant the Parish Ministers and I worked to define gave me an opportunity to minister at HOME -- the very shot in the arm I needed desperately. Being in a covenantal relationship with a Parish was not for the benefit of the Parish Minister at all. It was life-saving for me.

Reach out to a congregation near you. We Community Ministers need to feel "connected" deeply, to feel "at Home" and to remember where our roots are grounded. May the days ahead hold delightful tiny blessings for you.



UUSCM Website -- Many New Resources Now Online

Check out the updated UUSCM website which has many new resources including *A Guide to Affiliation*, stories of community ministry, CM Sunday sermons, installations, covenants, updated reading list and more! www.uuscm.org