

PILGRIM HOUSE TRIP TO UUA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2015, NAPERVILLE IL



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TRIP OVERVIEW


- **Spent quality time together as the Pilgrim House group**
 - 📖 Deepen our relationship
 - 📖 Discuss Pilgrim House related issues
- **Met other fellow UU folks for knowledge exchange**
 - ~400 attendees across 13 states in Mid America Region
- **Loved the Music and Enthusiasm**
- **Speakers broadened our perspective on issues beyond individual churches**
- **Next conference in April 2016 tentatively in Twin Cities: Well worth attending!**

Next slides: workshop highlights



MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

(ANNETTE MARQUIS)

- **Multiculturalism defined: All people are welcome as blessings and the human family lives whole and reconciled. Includes people with different beliefs/culture**
 - **Challenge to us: How do we welcome others? How do we include others? Particularly those with different beliefs/culture**
 - **Questions: Why is this topic important/scary/exciting/challenging?**
 - **Do technical work: changes in our services/activities; heart work of living our principles**
 - **Better understand white privilege.**
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MY-HAT: MY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TEAM

Support group for people dealing with mental health issues.

Three women told about mental health issues in their lives.

They wear hats and also a button that says , 'ask me about MyHat' as a way to open the discussion about mental illness.

Everyone knows somebody who is dealing with a mental health issue

Make congregations aware of the issues and how to be supportive.

Suggestions

- Present programs on the issues relating to mental illness,
- Form a support group ,
- List resources on the church website ,
- Have designated members of the congregation to go to for info/help.

Overall the workshop was presented in a very fun and upbeat way . It reduced the stigma of mental illness.



SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP (REPRESENTATIVES FROM MI, IL, MN)

Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) - Rev. Ashley Horan

State networks link UU congregations, thus strengthening the voice heard for social justice, particularly valuable for small groups.

- MUUSJA partners with other faith-based and secular movements for justice.

- MUUSJA funding comes mostly from donations. Some congregations have a budget line item

The role of MUUSJA:

- 1) Serving as a hub of rapid response via Facebook, email, etc. to announce opportunities to join others for action
- 2) building capacity in congregations for social justice work



INCOME INEQUALITY WORKSHOP

Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) for UUA: study and act upon the problem

- Rich people do not create jobs, consumers do by creating demand for products.
- Put money in the hands of those who buy products.

Congressman Nolan is the chief sponsor on the constitutional amendment to overturn Citizen United

Books to explore

Chuck Collins “99 vs. one”

Robert Reich “Inequality for all”


Congregations should have discussions over selected TED talks



ALTERNATE WORSHIP

Challenge traditional sermon sandwich, i.e., sermon between opening, songs, announcements and closing songs, thank you.

Alternatives:

- Be lay led
 - Use congregational talent
 - Drop the usual format
 - Use outside speakers
 - Change the physical space
 - Use technology
 - Be experimental
 - Be holistic
 - Change the ambiance
 - Be reflective
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WELLSPRING PROGRAM OF SPIRITUAL DEEPENING

Four years of UU Wellspring programs nine months each, with a different focus:

- Bi-weekly small-group meetings
- Daily spiritual practice
- Individual work with a spiritual director
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection
- Commitment to live out our values in the world


Ref: <http://uuwellspring.com>

NEXT GENERATION VIEWS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR MINISTRIES

A panel discussion between a Baby Boomer, a Millennial, and a Gen-X minister.

- Framed as a turning point in perspective as Baby Boomers step back.
- Possible UU Role to appeal to the younger generations:
- Help people move with hope and compassion into a world with a "material-limited" future.

Focused on:

- Sustainability of the earth to support the population
 - Co-op living and intentional communities
 - More resource-sharing networks
 - Success by relationships/community
 - Alternatives to endless growth & consumption
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GROWTH THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Identify/address community needs

- Offer programs of general interest to the community

- Share your building with other groups

Organize music jams, concerts, lectures, Science Sunday

Get involved in social action/social justice

- Participate in marriage equality, immigration

Demonstrate environmental commitment with church projects -- rain gardens, solar panels

Outreach to college campuses

Advertise, post flyers, use social media

Have fun

Fill your building with music, dialogue and activities; create excitement about your good work!



ECOLOGICAL LAND MINISTRIES

<http://www.uubgky.org/>

(under Helping Hand on their web site)

Agriculture that takes care of the land – permaculture

Create a garden grove on church grounds to produce food, mitigate erosion and flooding, and provide special place

Hugelkultur (no-dig raised beds)

<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/many-benefits-hugelkultur>



21ST CENTURY CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Leverage Social Media

- **Lunapic.com**
- **Morguefile.com**
- **uua.org/social media**
- **constantcontact.com**
- **mailchimp.com**
- **Facebook: UU Social Media Lab; UU Planet**

Utilize Online Resources

- **www.uua.org/office/administration**
- **www.uua.org/interconnections**
- **www.uua.org/management**

Manage Risk: (facility guideline, fiscal manual, personnel policy, media policy, child safety,...)

- **Church Mutual**
- **Christian Copyright Solutions**
- **<http://uua.org/safe>**

KEY MESSAGES

"The hard conversations need to continue."

"Stay at the table."

Keynote addresses are online at <https://www.midamericauua.org/ra>

Don't miss opportunities to attend the General Assembly and Regional Assemblies

