



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

April 2016

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Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: Changing Hearts, Not Just Opinions By Rev. Peter Morales

We Unitarian Universalists have a proud history of “speaking truth to power.” Our public witness work, beautifully exemplified by the “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign, is an essential expression of our faith. In recent years I have been privileged to join thousands of you as we decried dehumanizing and unjust laws on issues like immigration, voter suppression, and marriage equality.

Our public witness efforts advocating change in public policy are central to our religious movement. Public witness has been a major part of my own work as president, and it will continue.

And yet, I am convinced that our work aimed at changing unjust laws is part of a larger and even more important challenge: leading a change in the hearts and minds of our culture. Yes, we must speak truth to power. But more importantly, we must persuade the frightened and uninformed.

Consider our advocacy for marriage equality. The laws changed (and what stunning success the last few years have brought!) when attitudes changed.

Similarly, our efforts in the Civil Rights movement and anti-slavery were most effective when they focused on moral appeals and changing people’s hearts. Religion, I have long believed, is much more about what we love than about what we think. The central religious task is to change hearts, not just opinions.

The great challenge of the coming generations is preservation of sustainable human

life on earth. Climate change looms as a threat to all of us. The potential effects are devastating, especially to hundreds of millions of the world’s poorest people. Yet there is hopeful news: it need not happen. Humanity has the knowledge to create a sustainable and healthy future for all.

We face a historic threat. We know what needs to be done. We know we have the capacity to do it, yet we do not. We see stunning levels of willful denial. Again, the real threats are fear and ignorance.

While we UUs can and will advocate for change in public policy as part of our work in public

witness, this is not where our central focus should be. Our religious challenge, now as always, is to help change hearts and minds. Although we are often uncomfortable with the language of religious conversion, religious conversion is exactly what is needed.

We need to bear witness to our core religious teachings, like the interdepend-

ence of all life and the inherent worth and dignity of all people. People need to see and feel our interconnection. They need to see what they are doing to their children and grandchildren.

How are we to do this? It won’t be easy. It won’t happen quickly. And we can’t do it alone. I believe we already have a model before us. We have only to look at the miraculous (the word is not too strong) change in attitudes around sexuality, gender, and marriage equality. Here are the elements I believe have been critical to our success in this area:

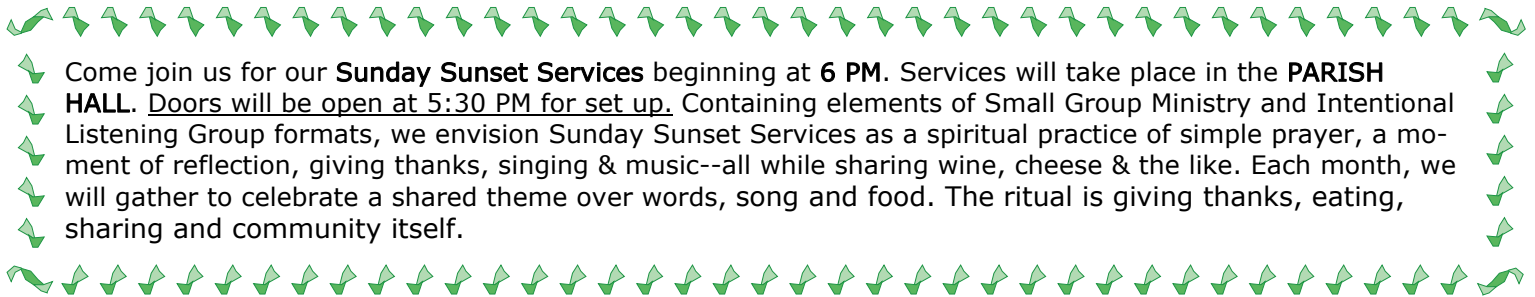


MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Sunset Service, Sunday, 10 Apr, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Thursday, 14 Apr, 7 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ UULMNJ Annual Meeting, Saturday, 16 Apr, 9 AM, UUCCH (see ad P. 2)
- ◆ HUUB Forum, Parish Hall, Sunday, 17 Apr, 3 PM
- ◆ Metro NY District Annual Meeting, 6-7 May, Hyatt Morristown (see ad p. 3)

Sunday Sunset Services

Services in Parish Hall start at 6 PM



Come join us for our **Sunday Sunset Services** beginning at **6 PM**. Services will take place in the **PARISH HALL**. Doors will be open at 5:30 PM for set up. Containing elements of Small Group Ministry and Intentional Listening Group formats, we envision Sunday Sunset Services as a spiritual practice of simple prayer, a moment of reflection, giving thanks, singing & music--all while sharing wine, cheese & the like. Each month, we will gather to celebrate a shared theme over words, song and food. The ritual is giving thanks, eating, sharing and community itself.

DATE THEME

10 Apr	<i>Sustainability</i>	Coordinators & Hosts — Darcy Hall & Greg Giacobe	Musician - TBA, Usher - Wayne Eastman
15 May	<i>Parents</i>	Coordinators & Hosts — Darcy Hall & Greg Giacobe	Musician - TBA, Usher - Wayne Eastman
12 Jun	<i>Blessings</i>	Coordinators & Hosts — Darcy Hall & Greg Giacobe	Musician - TBA, Usher - Wayne Eastman

Unitarian Universalist
Legislative Ministry of NJ
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 16, 2016
Registration begins at 9:00
Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill

2016 Register TODAY
www.uuamnj.org

Keynote Address
Membership Voting
Important Task Force Meetings
Liaison and Volunteer Training Opportunity

Spiritually Speaking [cont.]

Let us bear witness to love and truth. Let us help people overcome their fears. We have done it before, and we must do it again. This is our great religious challenge.

- We joined hands with other progressive religious groups and became part of a larger movement.
- We stood for something, not against something. We framed the issues as matters of equality and love.
- We made it personal. Real people were being marginalized and brutalized and denied basic rights.
- We were relentless. We did not give up when elections and court cases went against us.

Rev. Peter Morales has been president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) since 2009. Before serving in this capacity, he was senior minister at the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO, served on the UUA Board of Trustees for the Mountain Desert District and on the UU Ministers Association's Executive Committee. This article appeared in the Fall 2014 issue of UU World.

Speaking truth to power is important. And speaking truth to power is not sufficient. It never has been.

Nominations of Church Officers & Trustees for 2016/17


On 7 March, the Nominating Committee presented to the Board Secretary the nominations for the Officers and Trustees to the First UU Church of Essex County Board of Trustees for the 2016/17 Church year in accordance to the Bylaws of the Church (Art. V, Sec. 4). If elected, they will join continuing Trustees Frank Barszcz and Darcy Hall whose terms run through June 2017 and June 2018, respectively. As of 6 March 2016, the candidates are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| President: | Mindy Thompson Fullilove |
| Vice-President: | [open] |
| Secretary: | Gregory Giacobe (continuing) |
| Treasurer: | Bill Slezak (continuing) |
| Trustee (through 2019): | [open] |
| Nominating Committee (through 2018): | Rickey Slezak (continuing) |



Voting on the proposed slate shall take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting, on Sunday, 5 June 2016. Any church member is eligible to stand for the above offices as long as they fulfill the requirements set forth in the Bylaws (Art. V, Sec. 2) and have ten members of the church who are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting nominate that person. Notification of the intention to run, as well as a list of members supporting the nomination, must be given the Board Secretary in writing no later than 7 April 2016. The Secretary will then make a list of all nominees for church offices available to church members no later than ten days before the Annual Meeting.





BETTER TOGETHER

OUTSTANDING WORKSHOPS

FELLOWSHIP

INSPIRING FUN

WORSHIP

FOOD

MUSIC

THE UU NETWORK MALL

UU District of Metro New York

Annual Meeting


Central East Region

Hyatt Headquarters Hotel, Morristown, NJ

May 6-7, 2016


Keynote Speaker:

Taquiena Boston



Friday Night Concert:

Brother Sun



Details & Registration:

www.uumetrony.org/am16

Advance registration by April 29th

hotel reservations by April 21st

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 SUNSET SERVICE: <i>Sustainability</i> Parish Hall, 6 PM	11	12	13	14 Board of Trustees Sonnen Room 7 PM	15	16 UULMNJ Annual Mtg. UUCCH, 9 AM (see ad p. 2)
17 HUUB Forum, Parish Hall, 3 PM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Finding Our True Purpose as a Religious Community

Now is the time for HUUB
A newly forming Outreach, Community
Service and Advocacy program in
Orange, NJ

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County has been a social anchor of the City of Orange for 125 years. A once bustling manufacturing center with all of the cultural and social amenities of a thriving metropolitan city, Orange has suffered and survived the effects of deindustrialization, urban renewal and suburbanization of the middle class.

FIRST CHURCH AND THE CITY OF ORANGE ARE AT A CROSSROADS.

Now is the time to open the doors of our hearts and minds and our sacred space to the beauty, potential and needs of those around us. Now is the time to end our practice of faith in isolation and raise our voices and resources for compassion, justice and equity in all of our human endeavors.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

3:00 to 5:00pm

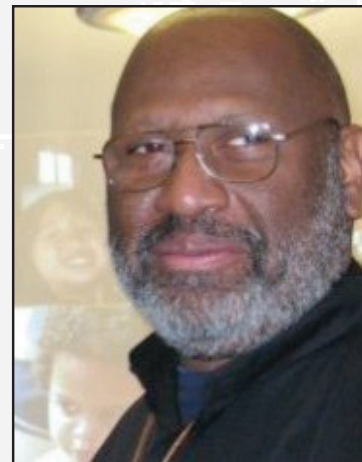
35 Cleveland Street, Orange, NJ

Please join us as we consider the
issues of Urban Ministry:

How best can we support the people of Orange who have lived, worked, and supported this community for many generations?

How best to recognize the worth and dignity of every person in the public discourse for the future of this city, our state and the nation?

Rev. Dr. John Gilmore, Unitarian Universalist Minister, former District Director of Racial and Social Justice for the UUA, Author, Life-Coach and Spiritual Healer will lead a discussion on how we can bring our diverse talents and resources together to answer these pressing questions and to help us develop a pathway toward true community.



Please RSVP by 4/10/2016 to Charlie Wirene, Managing Director of HUUB,
by email to OrangeHUUB@gmail.com or by phone at 973.624.0010 to reserve a seat.

The Wider Embrace: Regionalization

THE WIDER EMBRACE highlights important events and developments within our faith tradition outside of our local church community. The article below focuses on the issue and impending vote on regionalization among the UU districts in the Central East Region. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at office@essexuu.org or 973-674-0010.

For the last several years, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has been exploring and instituting changes in how it relates, and delivers programs and services to its member congregations. This year marks an important turning point in that development. Since just after the merger between the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America in 1961, the districts served a multifaceted role between the UUA headquarters in Boston and the local congregations. These included delivering programs and services, but also serving as a venue for congregations to come together on a regional level to determine those programs and services, to hire needed staff and, to elect trustees to the UUA Board, among other activities. However, as time progressed, it was found that this arrangement wasn't the most efficient, and in some cases, not the most effective. Beginning in 2010, a bylaws change made all UUA Trustees elected at large from the yearly General Assembly, rather than just a handful, as had been the case. Around the same time, the four neighboring districts that make the Central East Region, began to work more closely in sharing staff, programs and resources, while formulating a plan on how a regional structure would look like. This phenomenon was repeated with other districts throughout the nation.



During this and next month, each of the four districts that make up the Central East Region -- Metro New York (where FUUCE is located), Joseph Priestley, Saint Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville -- will be presenting motions at their respective annual District meetings to dissolve the districts and turn their administrative functions over to Regional staff, among other stipulations. The important change is that the region will have no longer have any governance structure comparable to the districts. It will primarily be an administrative arm of the UUA to supply services and programming to the member congregations. Already the Southern and Mid-America Regions have experiences of realized efficiencies with newly unified and integrated regional staff.

But with the disappearance of districts, many will wonder how congregations can and will relate with each other outside of such events like General Assembly. With no district meetings, how will congregation share and learn from other congregations? This will be the role of the "clusters". Clusters are congregations working together based on geography and/or other shared affinities, like, for example, urban setting or large size. There are a number of successful clusters around the country, typically consisting of 6 to 12 congregations each. Some districts already have clusters, and are developing new ones and

reconfiguring existing ones to maximize their effectiveness. Although clusters are self-organizing, having congregations join clusters, and keeping them functional is a high priority of the regional staff. Successful, formerly district programs will be supported by the regional and cluster leaders as well as regional staff. So, when a congregation asks for a specific program to be presented at their congregation, they will likely be asked to invite other congregations, within the clusters they participate in, to join in.



For the most part, the structure of the regions has already been established and is functioning. All district staff will become Congregational Life (CL) Staff for the region in which they are located. Each of the dozen or so regional staff members reports to their Regional Lead (RL). The Regional Leads report to the Director of Congregational Life (DCL) at the UUA headquarters in Boston. In turn, each member of the regional staff serves as a Primary Contact (PC) to a group of congregations in a particular area. The PCs can build a close, working relationship, and will have an intimate knowledge of each congregation's blessings and challenges. They can be proactive in helping a congregation share those blessings and meet those challenges. The PC can also help congregational leaders navigate all the support and opportunities available.

But, without the structure of the districts, how can congregations have input to the regional staff and programs as they have done with the Districts? What has been proposed is a two-part structure. The first body, already organized and functioning, is the Congregational Life Advisory Council (CLAC). It will act as a liaison in providing feedback from congregations, professional groups, clusters and other constituencies to the regional staff with the goal of providing the best possible support to our congregations and beyond. A side benefit of this arrangement is the sharing of wider denominational information with the congregations, clusters and other groups with which the council is in relationship. The current CLAC is composed of eight representatives, four elected by the four district Boards (one each), and the other four appointed by the elected CLAC members. Participation on the CLAC will be self-selecting. In the future, however, representation will be given to various stakeholder groups other than those based on district or geography, such as persons of color, young adult and small congregations.



The other input mechanism is "Wisdom Seekers". Currently in development, Wisdom Seekers are envisioned to serve as a linkage between the congregations and clusters, and the UUA Board of Trustees. Whether this will be an appointed body like the CLAC or forum-type gatherings has not been delineated at this time. However, Wisdom Seekers will be a

Continued on Page 9



59th ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, April 24th, 2016

Hasbrouck Heights Hilton
650 Terrace Avenue Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604
12:00 – 4:00 PM (12:00 – 12:45 PM *Socializing*; 1:00 PM *Lunch*)

HONORED GUESTS AND RECIPIENT OF THE DOROTHY ELDRIDGE PEACEMAKER AWARD:

**KEVIN MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PEACE ACTION AND
SHIGEKO SASAMORI, HIROSHIMA MAIDEN**

“ORGANIZING FOR PEACE AND A NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE”

Also Honoring:

Peace and Planet

Recipients of the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award

Litsa Binder

Peace Action Person of the Year



Kevin Martin became **Executive Director of Peace Action** and Peace Action Education Fund, the country's largest peace and disarmament organization, on September 4, 2001. Previously, he served as Director of Project Abolition, after serving ten years in Chicago as Executive Director of Illinois Peace Action.

Kevin's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Village Voice*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Progressive*, *Z magazine* and many other publications. He has appeared on CNN, National Public Radio, Fox News, MSNBC, BBC-TV and radio, and many other local, national and international radio and television outlets.

In 1999 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from national Peace Action.

Shigeko Sasamori, a **Hibakusha** and **Hiroshima Maiden**, is the adopted daughter of a founder of SANE (now Peace Action) Norman Cousins. Thirteen at the time of the bombing of Hiroshima, she was less than a mile away from where the nuclear bomb exploded. She has dedicated her life to campaigning for peace and “against all nuclear things.”

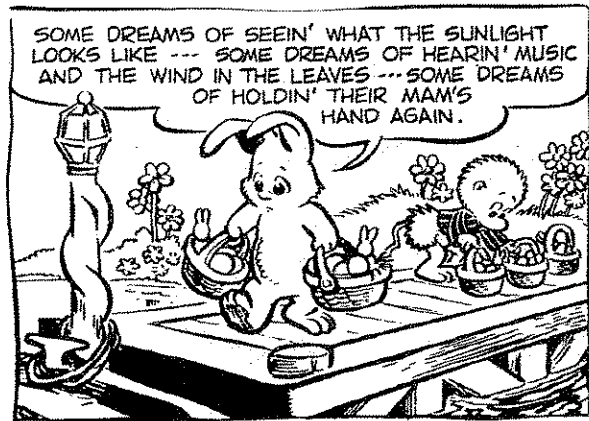
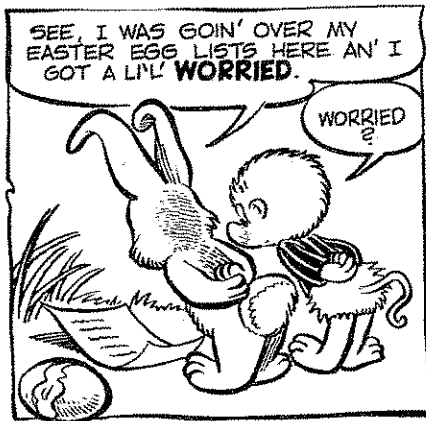
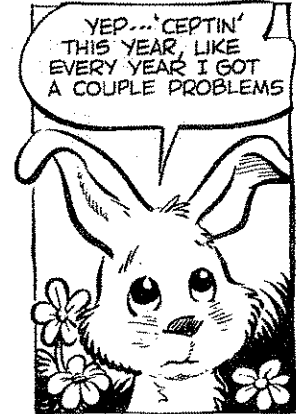
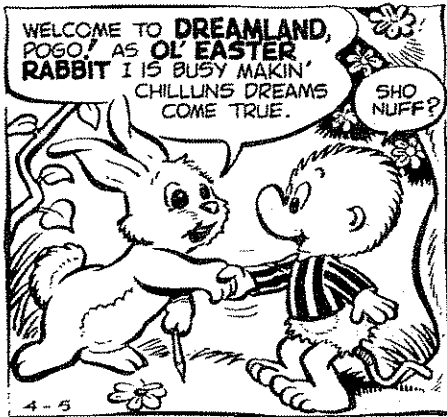
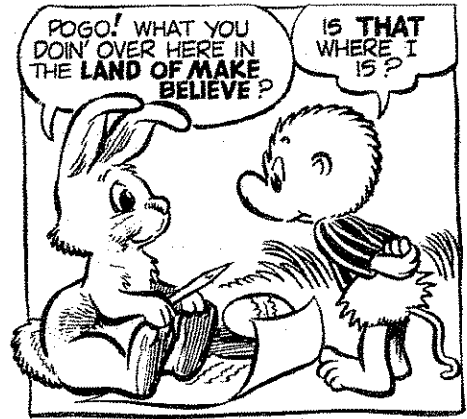
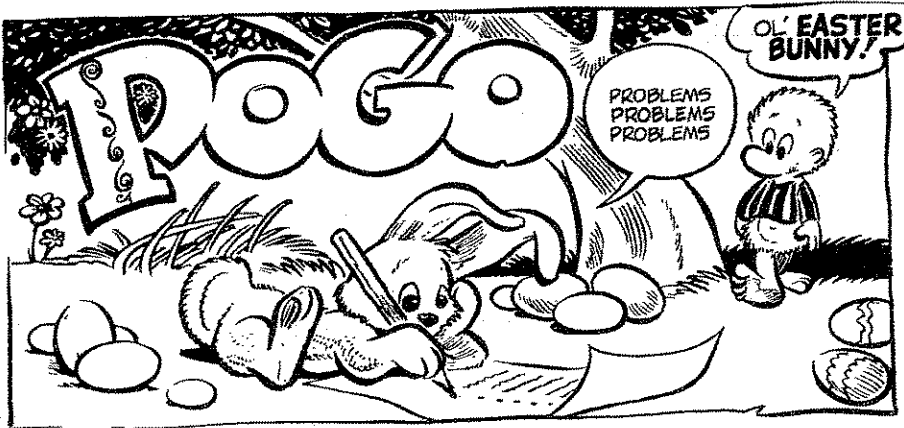


Peace and Planet is an international network of 70 member organizations and more than 300 endorsers. It seeks to address the inter-related crises of preparations for nuclear war, war, social and economic injustice and climate change in integrated ways, building collaborations between organizations and movements.

Reservations Required

Please visit <http://www.njpeaceaction.org> or call **973-259-1126**

Dinner tickets: \$65 before April 11th (\$75 after April 11th).

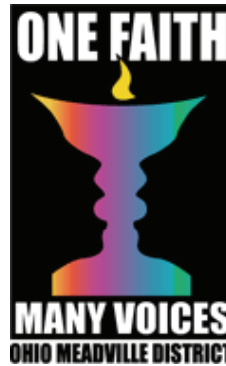


The Wider Embrace (cont.)

program on par with others offered by the Regions.

What about other programming? Successful district and regional programs will be retained and expanded, as appropriate. The criterion will be what makes the most sense for a particular program. Some might operate best in a cluster context. Present staff is now all regional, and they are sharing best practices in these programs across districts. Chalice Lighters committees for each of the districts, for instance, are meeting with a regional staff member to consider new ways to manage this program. They are very interested in integrating the use of the UU Faithify crowd sourcing as a major component for soliciting contributions. Another is the Commissioned Lay Leaders program, developed in Ohio-Meadville, which provides an opportunity for committed UU lay leaders to deepen their faith while serving their congregations in more ways that are significant. There has been talk about expanding this program to the eastern part of Central East.

With the implied disappearance of the districts, how will the dues, funding and endowments be handled? Regarding dues, the decision will be made by the UUA's Stewardship and Development office, not the regional staff. The precise calculations are yet to be determined but the goals are clear. There will be a 'single ask': one amount from the UUA versus the current district "Full Share" plus the Annual Program Fund's Fair Share. The new Fair Share rate will be based on a common set of congregational expenses, instead of on a membership headcount, as has been the case for decades. The exact percentage has not yet been determined. But while some congregations will be asked to pay more and some less, the total amount for the region will remain constant. Staff and services are expanding as has



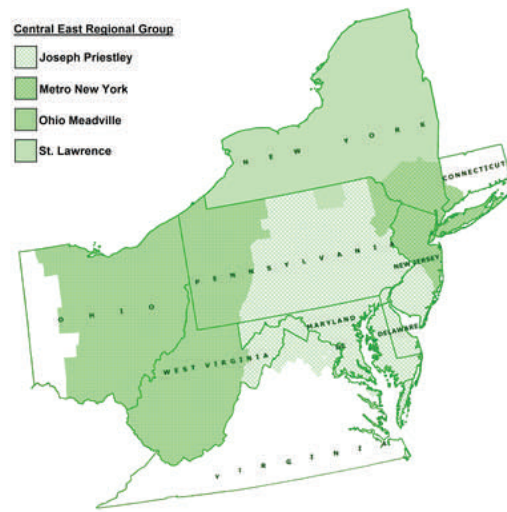
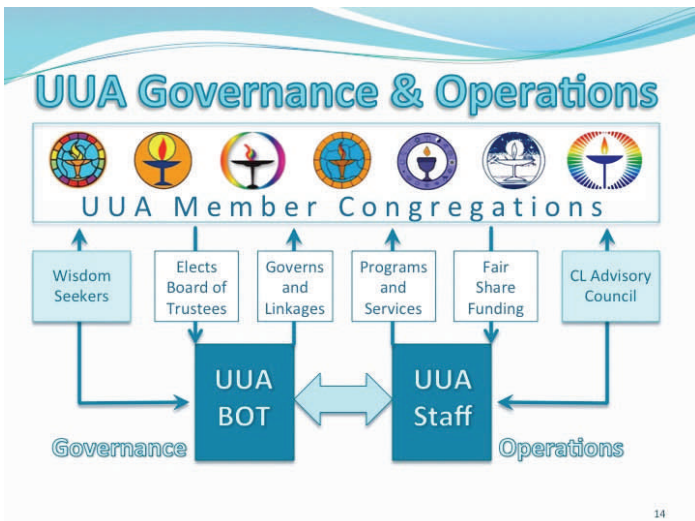
already been seen with the unified and expanded regional staff with their greater diversity and deeper portfolios. Current District endowments will be preserved as separate items in the UUA investment portfolios and managed by the UUA. The use of these funds will be restricted by how the current district boards have designated them.

The flow chart below left gives a visual representation about how the different staff positions and volunteer bodies, and administrative and governance levels will relate to each other under regionalization.

There are many questions that still need to be answered around such topics as cluster formation and expanded programming and services. But there is general support for the regionalization move. At a recent Congregational Presents' Roundtable, there was an overwhelming majority who supported the move. The vote to regionalize will be on the agenda at this year's Metro NY District Annual Meeting in Morristown on 6-7 May 2016. If you would like to know more about the plan for regionalization, please follow the links below:

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/regionalization>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNP4i-iiIrN6vu38FCkqxJZdOPk737Pfi>



We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
PO Box 998.
Orange NJ 07051-0998

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: office@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

Acting President: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Vice President Pro Temp: Frank Barszcz

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Administrator: Greg Giacobe

Sexton: Tony A Jones

HUUB Director: Charlie Wirene



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.
Orange NJ 07051-0998

WE VALUE: Community... Exploration... Fellowship... Spirituality... Liberal Religious Education... Diversity... Freedom... and Action.

OUR VISION: To be a life-affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and background come together to provide spiritual and intellectual growth to one another and to work together in Orange, New Jersey for a greater good in the world.

OUR MISSION: To study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship. To provide support and care for our community and the community at large.

Founded in Orange in 1890 as the First Unitarian Church of Essex County, the congregation has worshipped in the present Sanctuary since its construction in 1892-3. The Church continues the ministry of the Union Universalist Society (also known as the Church of the Redeemer), founded as the First Universalist Society of Newark in 1834.

Making the connections

