



Take a Fresh Look at Your Congregation

Take a Fresh Look



SOUTHWESTERN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONFERENCE
SPRING CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Community Unitarian Universalist Church
of Plano, Texas
April 23 through 25, 2010

WELCOME

"Who are these people and what are they doing in my church?" This tongue-in-cheek question from a long-time UU was prompted by a welcome influx of new members to our congregation. The SWUUC Spring Conference will address the serious side of this question. We will take a look at the folks who walk through our doors and sit in our pews. Who are we and what do we want from church? Our theme is "Take a Fresh Look at Your Congregation." It arises out of the work of our Theme Speaker, Anthony Healy. In his Alban Institute publication, The Postindustrial Promise: Vital Religious Community in the 21st Century, he makes the point that, far from abandoning religion, people are actively seeking to "re-root" in a religion that speaks to their needs and hopes. A quest for a religion that meets personal and spiritual needs would seem to play to our strengths. Unitarian Universalist churches have always drawn their members from seekers of truth. The presentations described below will help us to understand what many (new and long-time) members want from a church and what cultural shifts might strengthen our inclusiveness. We'll also look at some fresh approaches to both church operations and worship. We're not talking about a makeover. However, "the way we've always done it" just may not be good enough to meet the needs of new "generations" who understand that they don't have to accept the religion of their forebears. They can choose!

Please peruse the scheduled sessions. If they speak to your interests or promise information you could use, make plans to join us on April 23, 24 and 25. We're planning a memorable weekend. To learn more about our church, visit www.communityuuchurch.org.

OUR THEME SPEAKER



Anthony E. Healy is president of Visions-Decisions, Inc., an Atlanta-based consulting firm that provides demographic and congregational studies for individual churches, regional judicatories, and denominational bodies. Healy is a trained demographer with extensive knowledge, experience, and training in religious and social-science fields. He has also worked in journalism, research, and marketing.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 23, 2010

(Registration from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	SWUUC Board Meeting
5:30 to 6:45 pm	Dinner from Carrabba's Italian Grill
7:00 to 7:30 pm	Welcome and Worship
7:30 to 8:30 pm	Minister's Roundtable
8:30 to 10:30 pm	A Screening of Julia Sweeney's "Letting Go of God"

Saturday, April 24, 2010

(Registration from 7:30 am to 9:15 am)

7:30 to 8:30 am	Full Breakfast
8:30 to 9:15 am	Greeting, Announcements and Worship
9:15 to 10:30 am	Theme Speaker: Anthony Healy
10:30 to 10:45 am	Break
10:45 to 12:00 noon	Session A
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 3:00 pm	Annual Business Meeting
3:00 to 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 to 4:45 pm	Session B
4:45 to 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Session C
6:00 to 6:30 pm	Socializing
6:30 to 7:45 pm	Dinner
8:00 to 10:00 pm	Coffeehouse featuring Ron Shipman, Blues/Folk guitarist and singer and raconteur and Lu Mitchell, iconic UU Troubadour

Sunday, April 25, 2010

8:00 to 10:00 am	Breakfast
10:30 to 11:45 am	Worship

SESSION GROUPS

To help you choose presentations to attend, we have grouped related sessions under descriptive headings. Of course (with the exception of session A-4 which is an interest group) you can attend any session that strikes your fancy. All times below are on Saturday, April 24th.

A FRESH APPROACH TO YOUR CONGREGATION

A-2 Reaching Beyond the Family, Anthony Healy 10:45 am to noon
C-2 Young Adult Panel 5:00 to 6:00 pm

WORSHIP, CHURCH CULTURE AND OUTREACH

A-3 Addiction Ministry 10:45 am to noon
B-3 and C-3 A Fresh Look at Worship 3:15 to 6:00 pm
B-1 Contemporary Faith Development 3:15 to 4:45 pm

OPERATIONS

A-1 Values, Mission and Ends - Setting the Foundation for
Vibrant, Healthy Congregations 10:45 am to noon
C-1 The Program Budget 5:00 to 6:00 pm

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

A-4 Ministerial Candidates and Aspirants 10:45 am to noon
B-2 Swimming in the Deep End: The New SWUUSI 3:15 to 4:45 pm
B-4 and C-4 Trips to the 6th Floor Museum or the
Nasher Sculpture Center 3:00 to 6:00 pm

INTEREST GROUP

Adult Religious Education Leaders Saturday, noon to 1:30 pm

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

A-1 - Values, Mission and Ends - Setting the Foundation for Vibrant, Healthy Congregations - Joe Sullivan

From an approach based on Appreciative Inquiry this workshop will demonstrate how congregations put the first building blocks of effective governance into place, liberating the energy, creativity, and focus they need to live into their values and a mission that matters.

Workshop leader Joe Sullivan (Thoreau UU Congregation, Stafford, Texas) is the current Dean of SWUUC's the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience and past District President. As a leadership consultant and coach with Unity Consulting (Unity Unitarian, St. Paul, MN), Joe focuses on congregational vitality through work on governance areas of covenant, mission, vision, policy development, planning and board development.

A-2 - Reaching Beyond the Family - Anthony Healy

Religious institutions tend to be family oriented, often latently, and this increasingly becomes a problem as more people are living outside of families or in non-traditional arrangements (cohabitation, etc.). How do you make sure that your worship experiences and church programs are addressing everyone sitting in your pews?

A-3 - Addictions Ministry: A Primer

Every family has been touched by those caught in the throes of addiction. Many faith communities believe it is important to offer support to those in the struggle of trying to make positive changes in their life and change addictive behavior. Have you ever wondered if your congregation could be a place that offers assistance to those in the community with addiction problems? This session will offer several models of addiction ministry your church might offer. Come, come whoever you are.

Dr. Russell Elleven is the minister of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Worth

A-4 - A Networking Session for Aspirants and Candidates in Ministry

This session is designed as a forum for aspirants and candidates in ministry to network, ask questions and seek support in their ministerial preparation. District ministers will be on hand to provide feedback, guidance and illumination.

B-1 - Contemporary Faith Development

What exactly do Unitarian Universalists mean when we talk about “faith development”? How does faith development happen in our congregations? Where does it happen? Can, and should, Faith Development be integrated into the functioning of all church systems? If so, who is responsible to make it happen?

Natalie Wolc has served as Director of Religious Education at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church in Carrollton, TX for five years. Karen Lewis has served as Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian Church of Dallas for ten years. Come share your insights with them as they help navigate discussion of this important topic.

B-2 - Swim in the Deep End at SWUUSI 2010

Come hear all that the Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI) has to offer! This week-long family camp experience has something for everyone. Also hear details about SWUUSI 2010: Swimming in the Deep End (August 1-6). We have children's programming, great theme speakers, fabulous music, and a beautiful location. You won't want to miss it!

B-3 - A Fresh Look at Worship, Part 1

This session will highlight the concepts behind more generationally-inclusive UU worship. Presentations by Julie Lambert, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at Bay Area UU Church, Houston and Pamela Wat, Ministerial Intern at Community UU Church of Plano will include video clips of multigenerational worship demonstrating the best practices in the field.

Interest Group/Lunch: Adult Religious Education Leaders on Saturday, from noon to 1:30 pm

Cohosts:

Sheri Phillabaum, Director of Lifespan Religious Education,
First UU Church of San Antonio

Celeste Kennedy, Chair, Adult Religious Education Committee,
Community UU Church of Plano

Guest Speaker: Charles McMullen, Director of Adult Religious
Education, First Unitarian Church of Dallas

B-4 and C-4 - Trip to the Sixth Floor Museum or The Nasher Sculpture Center (Participants will depart at the end of the Business Meeting and return before dinner.)

Sixth Floor Museum

www.jfk.org

Located in the old School Book Repository, The Sixth Floor Museum is a first rate venue that not only vividly captures the events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy, but actually immerses you in a time period that marked a turning point in human and civil rights. You will learn a lot that you won't soon forget.

The Nasher Sculpture Center

www.nashersculpturecenter.org

This is a sculpture garden and 55,000 square foot gallery building on a 2 1/2 acre site in the midst of our Dallas Arts District. It is a showplace for what has been called the single best private collection of sculpture in America. The late Ray and Patsy Nasher donated the funds to build and maintain this stunning showplace for their collection. It's a quiet oasis in the midst of the downtown hustle and bustle.

If time permits, you are free to visit the outstanding Dallas Museum of Art which is adjacent to the Nasher. Or just stroll the Arts District and enjoy the five buildings designed by world-renowned Architects.

C-1 - Values-based Budgeting: the Program Budget

"*Program budgeting* is a method designed to clarify and simplify the operating budget. A typical church program budget divides annual income into four or five sources and annual expenses into four or five broad categories. Pie charts show the proportion of income from each source and the proportion of expenses in each category." (Wayne Clark in *Beyond Fundraising*) While a line item budget is still required, the Program Budget allows you to see what you value and how well (or poorly) you support it.

Reverend Susan Smith, District Executive
The Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference

C-2 - "What We're Looking for in a Church?" - Young Adults share their answers

Many, if not most, Unitarian Universalist churches find attracting and retaining young adults, especially those in their late teens to mid-twenties, to be a serious challenge. A panel of individuals who work with young adults and young adults themselves will shed some light on the issues and explore possible solutions. A few "surprise questions" may add spontaneity to the conversation. Reverend Aaron White, Associate Minister, First Unitarian Church of Dallas and others will present.

C-3 – A Fresh Look at Worship, Part 2

This practicum session will include exercises to help participants to rethink service elements (chalice lighting, opening words, message for all ages, hymn singing, etc.) already in practice in their congregations and imagine new ways of experiencing those traditions that are more inclusive to our diverse generations, cultures and experiences.

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April 23-25, 2010

COFFEEHOUSE Featured Performers

Ron Shipman is a blues and folk singer and guitar player who was the founder/owner of Dallas' first coffeehouse, The Rubaiyat. He tells great stories.

Lu Mitchell has been performing (and attending First Unitarian Church of Dallas) for more than a half century. Her blend of humor and political commentary, interlaced with traditional folk songs, still keeps audiences enthralled. Lu and her band, Catch-23, are guaranteed to entertain you.

OUR CHURCH

Community Unitarian Universalist Church (www.communityuuchurch.org) was founded in 1975 by a group of UU's who left the then Richardson UU Church in search of a different congregational culture. After a number of church homes and name changes, we have settled in our present facilities. Since the Reverend Patrick Price joined us in 2006, we have increased our membership by 40% to over 200 members. The future is full of promise.



OUR MINISTERS



The Reverend Patrick Price is a dynamic preacher who crafts worship services that have both continuity and vitality while engaging the mind and the heart. He is an experienced minister who has distinguished himself within his own congregation, in the wider community and at the Denominational level. And he is a Texan, raised in Fort Worth.

Patrick is married to the Reverend Jennifer Innis and they are the proud parents of Nathaniel ("Nate") Patrick Innis Price.

Pamela Wat is our Ministerial Intern. She is actively involved in all aspects of church life including this conference. Pamela has a B.F.A. in Related Arts with a concentration in Dance from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, an M.A. in Creative Arts/Interdisciplinary Arts from San Francisco State University and a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. For the last few years she has been working as a chaplain in hospices and a hospital.



"We Can Be the Religion for Our Time"

New UUA President Peter Morales offers us this rallying call. His point is that there are many people who would welcome our message of compassion, a commitment to justice and a quest for understanding. We should get to know those seekers so that we can reach out to them and let them know who we are and what we offer. While the theme and major sessions for the SWUUC Spring Meeting were in place prior to Reverend Morales' election, we feel our program embodies the spirit of his charge.

REGISTRATION

There are two ways to register for the Spring Conference:

1. Print out the registration form included at the end of this brochure. Complete it and send it with your check. Make the check payable to "SWUUC" and send it to:

Registrar
6720 Brentwood Stair Road
Fort Worth TX 76112

-OR- 2. Click the following link to register online:
<http://fd8.formdesk.com/swuuc1/spring2010>

Please note that the regular rates are in effect until March 23rd, 2010. Registration materials not postmarked by that date will be charged a late registration fee. Additional print-ready registration forms and brochures are available at <http://www.communityuuchurch.org/pages/springconf>.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please be sure to indicate on the Registration Form the ages of any children and youth who might be attending so that we can appropriately plan programming for them. For children up to age 5 who are registered by March 23, childcare will be provided in our nursery by hired childcare providers. For children up through 11 years old age-appropriate programming will be available. Youth ages 12 and up are invited to attend any of the adult programming. Time for a youth caucus will be arranged. The fee for the weekend is \$20 for the first child of any age and \$5 for each additional child. The registration rate for youth is \$60 if registered by March 23. If you have any questions about child/youth attendance at the conference, please e-mail us at springcom@communityuuchurch.org.

MEALS

We will provide five meals (there is an extra charge for the Friday night dinner catered by an excellent local Italian restaurant. We have enjoyed their cuisine at our church on a number of occasions.) We will offer breakfast on Saturday morning, but those of you who are staying at the Homewood Suites are welcome to enjoy their full breakfast buffet prior to traveling to the church for the Theme Speaker. While we hope to see you at all our meals, we will have guides to some of our excellent local restaurants available at the registration desk.

LODGING

We've booked a block of rooms at the nearby Homewood Suites, an award-winning hotel that combines comfort and spaciousness with stunning contemporary decor and outstanding amenities. The hotel is:

Homewood Suites
2601 E. George Bush Turnpike (Jupiter Road Exit)
Plano, Texas 75074
Phone: 972/881-3339

The conference rate is:

\$79 for a 1-bedroom suite with king-sized bed
\$119 for a 2-bedroom suite with 2 kings or 1 king and 2 queens

The rooms will be held until April 8. The same rate is available right up to the beginning of the meeting, but it is subject to availability and, after April 8, requires direct contact with the hotel.

Amenities include full buffet breakfast daily, complimentary WiFi and hardwire internet connections throughout the hotel, fitness center, hair dryers, full kitchen facilities in each room, a pool and a basketball court.

The most enjoyable way to book your room is to click here (http://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/DALTCHW-SWC-20100423/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) to go to our very own information and registration page. Otherwise, you can go to www.planorichardson.homewoodsuites.com and book using the group code SWC.

If you prefer, you can call the hotel directly at 972/881-3339 or Hilton Reservations at 1/800/225-5466 and reference the SWUUC SPRING CONFERENCE BLOCK.

They have arranged a checkout time for as late as 2:00 pm on Sunday.



HOME HOSPITALITY

A limited amount of home hospitality options will be available for the weekend. This includes room only, no meals or transportation. If you are interested in this option, please call Deb Bliss at 972/867-6950 at your earliest convenience. The cutoff date to book home hospitality is April 13.

TRANSPORTATION

Anyone booking air travel through American Airlines www.aa.com using the promotion code 6340 AU will get 5% off the lowest available fare at the time of booking.

We are doing everything we can to make your visit comfortable and enjoyable. However there are two challenges that have us stymied:

1. We can't move the church or the hotel any closer to the airports. DFW is a bit more than 20 miles, Dallas Love Field a bit less.
2. Given the first challenge, the second one is easy to guess: we can't make the trip cheaper.

Here's our best advice: The hotel representative says that the Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com) is the most reasonable carrier from DFW at \$26 each way and Love Field at \$21. Yes, that's true if you're alone. And don't forget that it's a shuttle. That means that it will make numerous stops along the way. A taxi from DFW will cost about \$60, from Love Field about \$50. But two or more riders teaming up will match or beat the shuttle rate and have a direct route to your destination. It is worth mentioning that, given that a round trip taxi ride would cost you around \$100 to \$120, you could rent a car for less than that. Whichever option you choose, once you reach your destination, you're in our hands.

You're encouraged to car pool to the church.

Hotel shuttles will leave the Homewood Suites hotel in Plano at 7:30 pm and 8:00 am Saturday and will leave the Community UU Church of Plano at 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm Saturday evening.

DIRECTIONS



Community UU Church
2875 East Parker Road
Plano, Texas 75074
Church Phone: 972/424-8989

Community Unitarian Universalist church is two blocks east of Jupiter Road on the North side of the street. The Homewood Suites hotel is on the Northeast corner of Jupiter Road and President George Bush Turnpike. The key access roads are Parker Road, Jupiter Road and Bush Parkway.

From DFW Airport: take the North exit and turn right onto Highway 114. After a short drive, you will see signs for President George Bush Turnpike (a toll road named for the elder Bush, not Dubya). Turn left on Bush and travel approximately 20 miles. Soon after you cross Route 75 (North Central Expressway), you will see the exit for Jupiter Road. Turn left onto Jupiter. If you are going to the hotel, it is immediately on your right behind the McDonalds and Burger King. If you are going to the church, continue on until you reach Parker Road (Shell station on the corner). Turn right and we are a couple of blocks along Parker on your left.

From Dallas Love Field: Exit the airport and turn right onto Mockingbird Lane. Stay on Mockingbird (it bends to the right) until you get to the Dallas North Tollway. Go left (North) on the tollway until you reach Route 635 (Lyndon Baines Johnson Expressway). Turn right onto LBJ and go to Route 75 (Central Expressway). Turn left onto the expressway and go to the Parker Road exit. Take a right onto Parker and proceed past Jupiter Road to the church. If you are going to the hotel, turn right onto Jupiter and proceed a little less than two miles to the hotel.

If you are driving from other parts of the District, plan a route that will get you onto Bush Turnpike or Central Expressway (Rte. 75) and follow the directions included above.

PLANO, TEXAS AND THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH AREA

We've got your weekend pretty well booked. However, you may have brought along some family members to enjoy the sights and delights. Dallas/Fort Worth is a major Metropolitan area. Yes, there is much to do, but the distances can be a bit daunting. For example, our church is almost 20 miles from downtown Dallas and its stunning new Arts District. The Fort Worth Stockyards are fun for the family, though over an hour away. Here are two web addresses that will give you some ideas:



Plano Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.planocvb.com



Dallas Visitors Bureau
www.visitdallas.com

If you have questions about any of them, please email webguru@communityuuchurch.org for more information and for our reviews.



We are eager to welcome you to our church and our neighborhood. We have truly enjoyed putting together a program that speaks to many issues that are on our minds and in our hearts. We'll see you in April!

2010 SWUUC SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

- 1) Please print the names of those registering as you want them to appear on name tags.
- 2) Please indicate the number of your 1st choice for workshops for each session. Indicate any dietary or special needs.

Name	Session			Dietary Needs?		Special Needs/Allergies?
	A	B	C	Vegetarian	Vegan	Specify

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Home congregation: _____ Delegate to Annual Meeting? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, role or position in congregation _____

Lodging: Homewood Suites _____ Other/Commute _____ Home Hospitality* _____

* Home Hospitality (room only, no meals or transportation) is limited. Contact Deb Bliss at 972/867-6950 to check availability and make arrangements prior to registering. Deadline for requests is **3/23/2010**.

Check events you plan to attend: Friday evening ___ Saturday ___ Saturday evening ___ Sunday _____

Check which meals you plan to share with us: Fri. dinner ___ Sat. breakfast ___ Sat. lunch ___ Sat. dinner _____
Sun. breakfast _____

Need childcare? (See fees below)? Number of children? ___ Ages: _____

Check when childcare needed: Friday evening ___ Saturday ___ Saturday evening ___ Sunday morning (no charge)

REGISTRATION FEES (include programs, workshops and 4 meals. Additional cost for Friday night dinner and trip to 6th Floor Museum/or Nasher Sculpture Garden):

Adult early registration	_____ @ \$ 75 per registrant	= \$ _____
Youth early registration	_____ @ \$ 60 per registrant	= \$ _____
Adult registration after 3/23/10	_____ @ \$ 95 per registrant	= \$ _____
Youth early registration after 3/23/10	_____ @ \$ 80 per registrant	= \$ _____
Friday night dinner	_____ @ \$ 20 per registrant	= \$ _____
Trip to 6 th Floor Museum	_____ @ \$ 35 per registrant	= \$ _____
Trip to Nasher Sculpture Garden	_____ @ \$ 30 per registrant	= \$ _____
Childcare for 1 st child	_____ @ \$ 20	= \$ _____
Childcare for additional child/children	_____ @ \$ 5 per add'l child	= \$ _____
Total		= \$ _____

Please send completed forms with check payable to "SWUUC"

**Registrar
6720 Brentwood Stair Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76112**

Questions? E-mail springcom@communityuuchurch.org