

PREVIOUS UURMaPA CONFERENCE

Fall 2022: Mon., Oct. 24 – Wed., Oct. 26 (online event report)

Topic: “Preparing for Your Own Farewell”

Odysseys Overview

Our two Odyssey presenters provided videos of their stories. The Odyssey on the second day was in an unusual format. With the help of her daughter, a short video interview introduced us to **Rev. Yvonne Seon** in conversation. (See her brief bio below.) Her Odyssey text was in the form of an essay she prepared for the Skinner House book, *Darkening the Doorways*, especially about her leadership of the Sojourner Truth Congregation in Washington DC. The essay was sent out the weekend before the conference to all participants to read in advance.

Yvonne’s 10-minute video was followed by responses and reflections from three colleagues whose roles and scholarship bring different perspectives on Yvonne’s career in government, academia, and as the first African American woman ordained to our ministry. Respondents were **Rev. Diane Miller**, **Rev. Qiyamah Rahman**, and **Rev. Leslie Takahashi**.

Mary Kay Hamilton’s Odyssey on the third day, Session VII, was of traditional length, followed by comments and questions. (See her brief bio below.)

Rev. Dr. Yvonne Seon

Yvonne’s early career included roles in the State Department and in academia. She has a Ph.D. in African American Studies and was a student at Howard University School of Divinity when she was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1981. Rev. Dr. Seon was the first African American woman to receive UU ordination. She was asked by the UUA to join a group of ministers seeking to plant new UU congregations in communities of color. Seon founded and served Sojourner Truth UU Congregation in Washington DC from 1987-1996. She concluded her career in academia at Prince George’s Community College and Wright State University. Rev. Dr. Seon’s Odyssey will be in the form of a conversation/interview facilitated by her daughter, the actor and media producer Felicia Chappelle, with responses offered by colleagues.



Mary Kay Hamilton

Mary Kay lives in Pacific Grove CA, with her husband Rev. Dennis Hamilton, who for 27 years served Horizon UU Church in Carrollton TX, a northern suburb of Dallas. She retired 8 years ago from her work as psychotherapist for Genesis Women’s Shelter in Dallas, at the same time as Dennis’s retirement from active ministry. She is delighted to be back “home” with family and friends in California. Mary Kay and Dennis were our virtual local hosts for the Spring 2021 UURMaPA Conference, originally planned to be in person at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove.

