

PREVIOUS UURMaPA CONFERENCE

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

Topic: “Preparing for Your Own Farewell”

Service of Remembrance Celebrants:

Rev. Dan King and spouse Nina Benedetto



Nina and Dan have been active Unitarian Universalists for over 35 years since embracing multiple lay leadership roles with the Columbia (SC) UU Fellowship, which led to an invitation to take on prominent paid staff positions with their two teen children at The Mountain UU retreat center in NC from 1991-94. Their deepening commitment to our faith tradition brought them to mid-life redirection from their respective

careers in teaching and law into ministry through three years at Starr King School.

After Dan’s formal ordination in 1997, he (as Lead Minister) and Nina (as an important volunteer) served together to lead UU church communities in Augusta GA, Kingston MA (Emeritus), Leesburg VA, and Houston First UU (Emeritus) and Thoreau (Emeritus), interrupted only by one year of Dan’s service at 25 Beacon. UURMAPA virtual gatherings have provided a “soft landing” with collegial role models for transition from those responsibilities.

Nina’s talent and flexibility as both an artist and teacher gave her the skills she needed for a variety of positions in public and private school art and early childhood instruction as well as for university students while she also pursued her own inspirations through photography and acrylic painting. Beginning in 2006, on three occasions she and Dan made the choice to relocate to assist with raising grandchildren while continuing their careers, but their respective retirements from paid positions in 2016 and 2019 have permitted more time for focus on their two younger grandchildren, and they are now firmly settled in Houston.

Although Dan has only recently retired again (from 2 years of volunteer service on the Board of the Texas UU Justice Ministry and the local Climate Leader team), this summer he has just been elected to take on a primary leadership role with their condominium association.
