

PREVIOUS UURMaPA CONFERENCE

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

Topic: “Preparing for Your Own Farewell”

Topics of Interest

(Session VIII): October 26, 4:00–5:30 pm Eastern Time

1. **Caregivers Support Group — Sylvia Howe** — Do you have primary responsibility for a loved one? Would you like to talk about some of the challenges and the satisfactions of your journey? Join us to experience what the UURMAPA Caregivers Support Group is all about. Sylvia is a member of two other Caregivers groups and has helped facilitate this group since it began.
2. **Creative Writing: Over, Outside and Beyond the Pulpit — Judith Campbell** — Come and join a hands-on creative writing workshop, with Community Minister and Mystery Writer, Judith Campbell. Get those juices going with some free writes, a themed write, and the opportunity to get started on the writing you said you wanted to do now that you've retired. Judith is a published author and poet and a leader of retreats and workshops on writing as a spiritual and creativity process. She also preaches in churches and officiates at weddings and memorial services in and around southeastern New England.
3. **UU Retirement Plan: Transitioning from TIAA to Empower — Richard Nugent & Gloria Guldager** — After 12 years with TIAA, the UU Organizations Retirement Plan will be leaving TIAA at the end of February 2023. While the details are still being worked out, plan participants should not be disproportionately inconvenienced. There will be changes, however, and Gloria and Richard will outline some of these changes and be available to answer your questions. **Page of 1 3**
Gloria Guldager serves as the Director of the UU Retirement Plan. Gloria has been on staff for 2.5 years. She previously served as Administrator of the UU Society of Germantown (PA) for nine years. Gloria lives with her family in the Philadelphia area. Richard Nugent is in his 15th year as Director of the Office of Church Staff Finances. In his 26th year of ministry, Richard served for 11 years as an interim minister to 7 congregations. Prior to ministry, he worked for more than two decades in and around the US Congress. Richard lives with his family in Washington, DC.
4. **Navigating the Ministry of Absence — Barbara Child** — Let's talk about what that term, "the ministry of absence," really means, where it came from, and how to make the most of it. I have a lot of questions, and you may have some more to thicken the plot. We will have some things to say about the feelings that accompany new retirement and about what it takes for a covenant to serve well the newly retired minister, that minister's partner (if partnered), and the transitional minister who follows. Barbara retired in 2010 after one called ministry and a decade of interim ministry. She edited, with Keith Kron, two editions of *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations* (Skinner House Books, 2013 and 2017), and she wrote a handbook called "The Former Minister's Partner, the Former Minister, and the Current Minister: Recommendations for Navigating in Unfamiliar Territory," which is available at <https://uurmapa.org/publications>.
5. **Writing Your Own Obituary — Eleanor Richardson** — If you want it done right, do it yourself. How do you want to be remembered in a few paragraphs? Is there a photo of yourself you prefer? Do you have a "Death, in case of" file? A handout will help you to remember the important

information, but we will begin the writing during our session. We hope for a few good laughs. Eleanor was Community News Editor for the Journal Tribune in Biddeford, ME, for three years, and wrote obituaries every day. Let her show you how much fun it can be.

6. **Spiritual Health and Wellbeing Following Times of Trauma and Crisis — Susan Suchocki Brown** — If you are feeling dispirited, disillusioned, depleted and distant, then join me and your colleagues for conversation. These last years have left many of us in a state bordering on spiritual despair and emotional unbalance. There might not be easy or a common response but there is one sure relief: sharing with others and learning more about ourselves. Come explore crisis and trauma effects and recovery for times like these. Susan retired from UU Church of Leominster, MA, after a 24-year ministry there and is newly retired as Interim in Portsmouth NH where she began that ministry as COVID erupted into a pandemic. Susan is one of the founding members of the Unitarian Universalist Page of 23 Trauma Response Ministry and continues to be a responder. She is a 25+ year fire department Chaplain and a founding member of the Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains which responded to 911 among other major events. Among many other contributions to our faith, Susan was the first Chair of the UUA's Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee and has served on all Anti-racism, anti-oppression, multicultural committees that the UUA Board has initiated or supported.
7. **Intergenerational Tensions Within Our Ministry — Wayne Arnason** — What is a “generation” when it comes to ministry? Brand new ministers include people in their fifties and people in their twenties. Does “generation” have to do with when you attended seminary or your life experience before you attended seminary? What’s up with the social media threads this past summer in which retired colleagues were called out for stereotypical characterizations of younger ministers? All these questions are ripe for discussion in an open-ended exploratory conversation. Wayne serves on the UURMaPA Board as at-large Liaison to UUA and UUMA, and as a stereotypical baby boomer listens to way too much classic rock.
8. **In Transition: The State of Unitarian Universalist Ministry and How Retired Ministers Can Help — Keith Kron** — Interested in serving a congregation on a short-term basis through the Targeted Ministry Program? Want to know about why there is a ministerial shortage and what challenges are ahead? Just want to know more about ministry in a slightly post-pandemic moment? Come chat with Keith with these and whatever questions you might have! Keith serves as Transitions Director at the UUA and previously served as Director of the Office of BGLT Concerns, 1999-2010.
9. **Retirees Addressing the Climate Crisis and Climate Justice — Terence Ellen** — As elders and religious leaders, we have a unique opportunity to help all rise to meet this occasion. The young are looking to us in both regards to be acting with determination worthy of the moment, creativity, a just and expansive spiritual grounding, and a vision of an inspiring future. Humanity has never met a challenge such as now, so old wineskins do not suffice. This will be interactive, sharing hopeful new actions and venues we have found. Terry was involved in the early days of The Seventh Principle Project. He is the former Executive Director of UUs for Social Justice: Advocating for UU Values in the Nation's Capital. He is on the Board of Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the Steering Committee of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate and is active in several faith-based and lay organizations supporting the Earth Bill and related issues.