



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

WWW.UUMAN.ORG 11420 CRABAPPLE RD, ROSWELL, GA 30075 770-992-3949

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In the Interim (Year 2): iWonder

Should UUMAN adopt a social media policy for UUMAN-related sites such as the two Facebook groups this congregation hosts?

I want very much to believe we're all wisely capable of staying our twitchy fingers on the computer keyboard before responding in anger or righteous indignation to a post with which we disagree wildly. However the evidence of my own behavior stands in stark contrast. I'm on Facebook in a general sort of Let's Keep in Touch way. My personal pitfall has been email, or "emauling" as I call impulsively responding to an offending message with a verbal shot across the offender's electronic bow.

This has never turned out well for me. Now I proof-read every email I send, checking for potential misinterpretation or demonic auto-correct. What we say from behind the veil of print can backfire on us so easily.

Of course no hypothetical social media policy could, or should, apply to personal, private communication, including emaul. You and I must strive all by ourselves to exercise good judgment there. Nor should any such policy, however graciously worded, even appear to clamp down on the free expression of our differing convictions. So let's take those two conditions as given and proceed.

Should UUMAN adopt a social media policy for UUMAN-related sites such as the two Facebook groups this congregation hosts? This question concerns the UUMAN community as a whole, not just plugged-in individuals. Burying your computer and smartphone in the backyard (or not owning one in the first place) will not let you off the hook. What's at stake here has less to do with technology than with that revered quality of healthy, happy congregational life: right relationship.

Social media etiquette and policies around it are a hot topic everywhere these days. Thanks to our free-thinking religious heritage and our affirming theologies of love, compassion and diversity of belief, wonder whether we Unitarian Universalists might not be uniquely equipped to address the dilemmas of clear, mindful, ethical communication in an electronic age.

The Healthy Congregations Team (Carolyn Bommari-to, Elizabeth Rohan, Dave Hudson and Ann Creech) are waiting to hear your thoughts on the question, Should UUMAN adopt a social media policy for UUMAN-related sites such as the two Facebook groups this congregation hosts? If you have thoughts you would like to share, please send them to healthycongregation@uuman.org.

Two HCT members have completed their two-year terms and are preparing to step down. If you're interested in filling their shoes, contact any of the folks named above, Board President Anna Swafford, or me.

UUMAN

Ministerial Search Committee

News You Can Use – September 2015

Your Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is pleased to provide you with our first installment of News You Can Use—an update on what we’ve been up to. We want to hear from you throughout the search process, so read on to learn how to get in touch with us.

What has the MSC been doing?

After being installed as your MSC on April 26th, we began reviewing the many resources available on the UUA website about the search process. For those of you interested, you can access the materials here: <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/20679.shtml>. We refer often to the Settlement Handbook.

Every UU congregation in search works with a Ministerial Search Representative from the UUA; after the departure of our originally assigned representative and some dialogue with the UUA office, we were fortunate to be paired with the Reverend Marni Harmony, and were able to retreat with her on June 19-20. We learned much more about the search process and each other. Based on the knowledge of each other’s strengths and interests, we determined the major roles of each of the MSC members:

Shelley Nagrani	Chair
Lyn May	Packet Editor
Phillip Seaver	Arranger
Miriam Patanian	Reference Checker
Laura Keck	Secretary
Dirk Bender	Survey Coordinator
Joe Creech	Treasurer

We also discussed how we will make decisions as a group—which decisions will require a majority, which will require a consensus—and how to understand each other’s perspective when disagreements arise, to use standards that we can all agree on, to stand aside if we are willing, and to be forthright if we feel strongly.

The MSC has met since the retreat to discuss the informational packet we’ll be pulling together, our methods for communicating with you, and budget considerations.

What will happen over the next couple of months?

Listening to You

- [September through October] We will talk with each of the UUMAN staff to hear their thoughts, wishes, and concerns about our next settled minister. We will also talk with other individuals in the congregation.
- [September through October] We will distribute a congregational

survey, the purpose of which is to offer every member of the congregation the chance to express your needs and wishes for our future ministry.

- [September through October] Knowing that a survey has limitations in the kind of information it can provide, we will also conduct several cottage meetings. You can sign up at the MSC table in Fellowship Hall after service, or you can sign up online: <http://goo.gl/forms/JRfhk1CWTa>. Scheduled dates are:

Thursday, September 10	7:00–9:00 P.M.	Patanian home, 910 N Abbeywood Pl, Roswell
Tuesday, September 22	7:00–9:00 P.M.	UUMAN Sanctuary
Sunday, September 27	12:30–2:30 P.M.	UUMAN Sanctuary
Monday, October 5	7:00–9:00 P.M.	Nagrani home, 5045 Old Oak Trace, Roswell
Wednesday, October 14	7:00–9:00 P.M.	Keck/Jascomb home, 15175 Birmingham Highway, Alpharetta

- [October 31-November 1] We will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, led by Keith Kron from the UUA Ministerial Transitions Office. The purpose of this workshop is to promote inclusive thinking and to help prevent unintended discrimination in the ministerial search process. The workshop is three hours long—all MSC members will attend, and anyone from UUMAN is welcome to join us. Keith will also lead us in the Sunday worship service on November 1.
- [Now through November] We will draft both our Congregational Record and an informational packet that we will share with interested candidates. The Congregational Record is our best opportunity to attract ministers’ interest. The materials in our informational packet will be shared with ministers that express interest in us after having reviewed our Congregational Record. We will likely be speaking with many of you about various elements of these two important resources.
- [Now through the end of the search process] We are available throughout this process—to hear your thoughts, your concerns, answer your questions, and give you any updates we are able to offer. You can find us before and after service—we’ll be the ones wearing flashing red lights! You can email us: search@uuman.org. You can leave a note in our mail drawer across from Reverend Cynthia’s office in Fellowship Hall.

Communicating with You

- Beginning Sunday, August 30th, we will provide you a 5-minute update on our work from the pulpit. You'll find us there on the last Sunday of every month.
- Beginning September, we will include articles in the monthly newsletter, the UUMAN Times: <http://uuman.org/pdf/UUMANTimes.pdf>.
- Beginning in August, we will send out updates and time-sensitive information via UUMAN Announcements and the UUMAN Facebook pages.
- Beginning in August, we will post a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with important and timely information about the search process.

How to contact the MSC

Email: search@uuman.org

In person: before and after Sunday services; look for the people wearing **NEON PINK** name tags!

In faith,

Dirk Bender, Joe Creech, Laura Keck, Lyn May, Shelley Nagrani, Miriam Patanian, and Phillip Seaver



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays.

Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
9/6	Kit Hamblen is celebrating a birthday
9/9	Dirk and Ann Bender are celebrating their 25th anniversary!
9/10	Luc G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/12	Sheila K. Smith is celebrating a birthday
9/18	Nelson and Marcia Hagood are celebrating their 5th anniversary!
9/24	Maeve H. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Jesse Read is celebrating his 18th birthday
9/27	Mike Saltzman is celebrating a birthday
9/28	Troy vdB. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday



Life Events Gifting

We are proud to announce that 38 contributions were made to the UUMAN Life Events Gifting this past fiscal year totaling \$3,025.00. The events recognized included weddings, vow renewals, memorials, graduations, and Father's Day. If you are interested in recognizing a Life Event, please see the poster in the narthex for details or contact Jan Wilson at janbillwilson@msn.com

FROM THE GARDEN

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, from mid-March to mid-November. This month, we will be meeting on September 14 and September 28. We usually work from around 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., but sometimes we start a little early to try to beat the heat. UUMAN Announcements are sent out the Friday before each work day. Hope you can join us!

Claire Sullivan
UUMAN Gardening Group
cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



White Mums



Autumn Joy Sedum



Zinnias with Bee



Full Summer




Zinnias with Butterfly



Orange Butterfly Weed

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
9/6	Rise Up and Fail We want so much to be the Perfect Unitarian Universalist Congregation, to find the Perfect Minister, and to draw crowds on Sunday morning. What are we doing to ourselves? As UUMAN embarks on a second year of ministerial transition and the Search Team gears up to . . . well . . . start searching, perhaps a touch of “conscious failing” might be therapeutic for us all.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
9/13	Southern Pride What do we glean from history to be proud of? Not a flag that represents a lost cause of the failed nation of the Confederate States of America. But what Southern heritage is a liberal proud of?	Lay Speaker: Jim Saunders
9/20	Faith in Action: A Blessing of the Animals 	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
9/27	Humanity's Place in the World To regard humans as inherently at odds with nature is not only a misperception, but also a potentially harmful one. To see ourselves as belonging to nature is a more persuasive rationale for sustainability than to perpetuate the notion that we are separate, isolated, and that our very existence is a threat to life on earth. It's time for a new story.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott

September Events

Date	Event
2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at peltier.john@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at dan@uuman.org
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House <i>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!</i> Doors open at 7 pm (except April this year it is the 3rd Saturday). Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences. For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campoften@aol.com

September Events

Date	Event
9/24–12/3 (excluding Thanksgiving) Thursday evenings, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm	Building Your Own Theology Theology has to do with ultimate concern and commitment, by whatever names we call them. “it has to do with the stuff of human experience, the meaning of being and becoming,” says Rev. Richard Gilbert. His classic curriculum offers some tools for exploring that meaning and building a theology based on our own individual experience. Contact Dave Hudson at hudsondavid@bellsouth.net or Randy Blasch at randyblasch@gmail.com

For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at www.uuman.org.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org