



BCD In-Brief



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General Assembly Housing

Housing Update 3/4/14 from the GA Office

The Unitarian Universalist Association strives to live out our UU values in all aspects of our work, and this is especially true of General Assembly. Because the UUA supports fair wages and labor practices for hospitality industry workers, we have terminated two hotel contracts that were originally part of the GA housing block due to on-going labor disputes. Together these two hotels, the Renaissance and the Providence Hilton, represent a significant loss to the room nights inventory for GA. We are currently working with the city of Providence to identify alternative hotels/housing.

GA Office



Waterfire Park

Here's what you can do **now** to secure housing for GA, though the situation is fluid and more hotel rooms may become available:

- [Make General Assembly Dorm Reservations](#) - There are currently many low cost dormitory-style housing options still available at the Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University campuses. The dorms are about 3 blocks from the Convention Center.
- [Make Home Hospitality Reservations](#) - Sixty Unitarian Universalist (UU) hosts from local congregations will open their homes to provide low-cost, bed-and-breakfast style accommodations during the week of GA.
- Go to your favorite travel site (such as [AAA.com](#) or [Hotels.com](#)) for other hotel options in the vicinity.
- Send and receive room sharing notices on the [UUA-GA email list](#).
- Check the GA Housing Reservation System [General Assembly Hotel Reservations](#) for availability: People may change their plans and cancel their hotel reservations, previously reserved rooms will sometimes become available through the GA reservation system.

Financial Aid for General Assembly

The Ballou Channing District Scholarship Board of Directors has funded fifteen \$250 scholarships to assist with GA Registration. The scholarship recipients will be selected by lottery. **Submission deadline has been extended to April 8.** Names will be drawn on April 10. Checks will be sent on or about April 15.

To apply download and mail to the BCD office the application form at the end of this *BCD in Brief* issue or contact the BCD office to have a form emailed to you. Scholarship recipients will be asked to send GA registration receipt to the BCD Office by May 1.

Financial aid is also available through the UUA. Applications for UUA financial aid are being accepted now. Most are due by March 31.

- [UUA Congregational Matching Grant Scholarships](#). The GA Planning Committee will provide a limited number of free registrations and a match of your congregation's contribution toward your attendance, up to \$250. A recommendation and financial pledge from your congregation is required when application is made. See www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml
- [UUA Congregation President Registration Rebate](#). The Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees has authorized 500 \$100 rebates on the registration fee of congregational presidents who attend GA as delegates. Individuals should register at the regular rate. Instructions for how to receive the registration rebate will be provided at General Assembly.
- [UUA Youth and Young Adult Scholarships](#) provide free registration and up to \$500 toward expenses. Information at www.uua.org/re/youth/events/gacaucus/56024.shtml. The application deadline is

March 31.

- *Youth Group Scholarships* There are also a limited number of competitive \$1000 Youth Group Scholarships for youth groups who have gotten organized to raise money and bring most of their group to GA. Information at www.uua.org/re/youth/events/gacaucus/56024.shtml.
- *Davidoff Fund Scholarships*: A scholarship to cover the cost of GA registration for lay delegates from congregations who have not been represented by lay leaders at GA in the last three years. Information and application at www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml Application deadline is April 30.

BCD Spring Conference and Annual Meeting - May 3

With the theme "launching a liberal religious Great Awakening in New England" the 2014 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will convene on May 3, at the First Universalist Society in Franklin, MA. Justine Sullivan, president of the Clara Barton District, and Laura Graham, president of the Mass Bay District will be co-keynoters. The Clara Barton and Mass Bay District boards initiated the call in 2013 to New England Unitarian Universalists to have a liberal religious Great Awakening. Jim Keys, UUA Moderator, will be a special guest, Skyping into to the Conference to talk about the many major changes afoot within the Association. The Annual Meeting will follow the presentations.

Immediately after the Annual Meeting the BCD Board of Directors will host a reception for retiring District Executive, Rev. Bill Zelazny.

Details of the Conference, Annual Meeting and reception are still being developed. Information will be sent to congregation offices and leaders by the end of March.

District Membership Information

The annual congregation certification was recently completed. Forty-one of the forty-five BCD congregations submitted their certification reports. Again, this year as for the past several years the district has lost total congregation membership based on the numbers reported as of February 3, 2014. This is now how we look.

- 5022 members from the reporting congregations (5094 reported in February 2013)
- 5100 estimated numbers for the district including the 4 non-reporting congregations using 2013 or earlier numbers. (5172 estimated reported in 2013)
- The largest reported membership - 478; smallest (non-federated) -- 11
- 1637 children and youth enrolled in congregation religious education programs. Largest enrollment - 203; smallest enrollment for congregations with RE programs - 2.

New Logo of the UUA

The new logo of the Unitarian Universalist Association was recently unveiled. The new logo is part of a larger branding initiative that has a mission of helping UUs improve the way we share our faith and values to a wider audience, in other words, to help people know

what we are all about as a faith tradition. The new logo, only one small part of the total branding initiative, is important because it is a visible identification of Unitarian Universalism.



The new logo is now available in various sizes and formats for congregations to download and use as part of websites, Facebook pages, newsletter, event advertising, etc. Download the logo at <http://www.uua.org/communications/art/uuachalice/index.shtml>

Read more about the new logo in a special message from UUA President Rev. Peter Morales at <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/293249.shtml>

Two New Spring Workshops Announced

- **Developing Multigenerational Ministry in Your Congregation - May 17, 2014**

(A Ballou Channing District workshop)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA www.uuffm.org

Kim Paquette, the Northern New England District's Director of Multigenerational Ministry will lead a workshop to explore the meaning of multigenerational ministry and how congregations can intentionally develop multigenerational ministry. Details are still in the planning stage. More information and registration forms will be sent to congregations and posted on the BCD Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/#!/bcduuu> by April 1, 2014.

- **Sermon Writing for Lay Preachers -- May 17, 2014**

(A Clara Barton/Mass Bay District workshop)

First Parish Weston, MA <http://www.firstparishweston.org/welcome.html>

The Rev. Sue Phillips will lead a hands-on workshop that will give participants an understanding of what makes good sermons good and how to transform kernels of spiritual wisdom into a worshipful sermon. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Reflect on the structure and content of meaningful, memorable sermons
- Learn how to translate an idea into a powerful sermon
- Consider presentation and speaking tips

This workshop is sponsored by the Clara Barton/Mass Bay Districts, but is open to members of Ballou Channing District congregations. \$50 registration (includes handouts and refreshments)

Register after April 1 at <http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/drupal/content/sermon-writing-lay-preachers>

Social Witness Congregation Poll Results

The Congregation Poll to determine the next congregational study/action issues (CSAI) closed on February 3. Six proposes CSAI received enough votes to be placed on the

agenda for consideration at a GA business session this June: Escalating Inequality, Gun violence: A Public Health Issue, Renewing and Securing Our American Democracy, Ending the War on Terror, and Empowerment: Age and Ability Reconsidered.

More information about the social witness process of the UUA is available at <http://www.uua.org/statements/process/index.shtml>.

UUA Stewardship Sermon Award

Nominations for the 2014 Stewardship Sermon Award are now being accepted.

Established in 1984, the Stewardship Sermon Award is granted annually in recognition of a sermon that best explores and promotes the financial support of our Unitarian Universalist faith. The \$1,000 award is jointly sponsored by the UUA's Annual Program Fund (APF), the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), and the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA). The selection is made by a representative committee using a blind process with standardized criteria.

Submissions for the 2014 Stewardship Sermon Award are being accepted from March 15 to April 15, 2014. Religious professional leaders are invited to submit sermons delivered between March 1, 2013 and April 15, 2014 to the Annual Program Fund Assistant, Norrie Gall, at apf@uua.org.

For additional information and instructions go to:

<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/stewardshipsermon/index.shtml>

Grow 100 Gardens Project - A UUSC Initiative to Help Haiti

Congregations, families, individuals, youth groups, community groups, and others are invited to build a food garden at home or in the community to sponsor one for a family in Haiti.

If 100 groups participate, and each raises \$250 (donation or sales) the UUSC will be able to help 100 Haitian families receive training and materials to grow their own food and achieve food sovereignty and sustainability. The \$250 provides materials for tire gardens, including platform construction, compost, organic seeds, maintenance, and technical assistance from an agronomist. Food sustainability can be at the heart of lifelong sustainability for thriving families and communities in Haiti. Once Haitian families don't have to buy all their food, they are better able to cover other basic expenses like school fees for their children. How-to resources are available from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to help grow your garden and raise funds to sponsor a garden in Haiti. Sign up now. Questions?

Contact: volunteerservices@uusc.org

Calendar

Mar 15	Women's Federation grants application deadline	
Mar 29	Cape & Island Leadership Cluster meeting	11:00 AM
	<i>First Parish, Brewster, MA</i>	
Mar 31	BCD Board Meeting	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	<i>Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, MA[#]</i>	

- Mar 31** **GA volunteer and scholarships deadline**
- Apr 2-5** **UU-United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar
on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
New York City, NY
<http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar/index.shtml>
- Apr 8[#]** **BCD GA Scholarship application deadline**
Apr 8
South Shore Leadership Cluster **TBA**
Location TBA
- Apr 6** **Rev. Pamela Barz, Scituate Minister, Installation** 3:00 pm
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church Scituate, Scituate, MA
- May 3** **BCD Spring Conference and Annual Meeting**
First Universalist Society of Franklin
- May 17** **Developing Multigenerational Ministry** **TBA**
in Your Congregation[@]
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA
- May 17** **Sermon Writing for Lay Preachers[@]**
8:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. First Parish Weston, MA
- Jun 19** **BCD Office closes for summer break**
- Jun 25-29** **General Assembly**
Providence, RI

[#]Change of information from last *BCD in Brief*
[@]New from last *BCD in Brief*

General Assembly Scholarship Application

(Please print or type clearly)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Congregation _____

Is this your first General Assembly? Yes No

Affirmation

I will register to attend the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI. If I cancel my GA registration I will reimburse the District for the amount of the grant.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: BCD Office, 325 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301 by April 8, 2014

