

Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

2011-2012 Program Guide



“Grounded & Growing”

Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association
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www.nned.uua.org

Northern New England District Unitarian Universalist Association

Program Guide Introduction 2011-2012

Your staff, Rev. Karen Brammer, Kimberly Paquette, Joy Blanchette and I spent three days in May working to create a palette of programs, workshops, training events and assemblies to meet your needs as you move ahead and deepen your leadership skills. This year has been one of many new things for us. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the NNED District office sent a survey by e-mail to participants of most NNED workshops, conferences and training opportunities. If you were one of the respondents, we thank you. You gave us great ideas for our programmatic focus and you told us:

- The level of inspiration and encouragement has been good
- You need more leadership skills training
- You appreciate hearing the stories of other congregations
- The information about specific topics has been very helpful.

Your feedback has been integrated into the work of 2011-2012. Please, when you receive an electronic survey from the District, take the time to respond. Your thoughts and suggestions DO matter.

This program book you now have in your hands is the fruit of your input and that of our nearly one hundred volunteers who help us do the work of our faith. We are getting this program guide to you early so you can use this as a resource at your board retreats this summer. How can these programs help you achieve your goals? We ask that you consider how working in connection with other congregations in our District might be enhanced by attending one of these excellent programs. In your planning sessions ask not "what you can do for your District, but what your District can do to support your ministry!"

I hope this is a banner year for you and your congregation. Remember, you are not alone. We hope to see you at our programs so we might continue to learn in each other's presence.

In Faith,
Mary Higgins

2011-2012 Calendar of Events

-Details follow in this Program Guide-

Aug 25-27	Teacher Development Renaissance Module, Milford, NH
Sept 10	Youth Advisor Training, Concord, NH; 10am-3pm
Sept 21	Congregationally Based Justice Work-Conference Call, 7-8:30pm
Sept 23-25	OWL Combined K-1&4-6 Sexuality Ed. Leadership Training -Cancelled due to lack of registrations-
Sept 24	350.org Moving Planet
Sept 25-Oct 1	Collective Food Drive
Sept 30-Oct 2	Women & Religion Retreat at Geneva Point, Moultonborough, NH -Cancelled due to lack of registrations-
Oct 1	Heart of the Matter: Living Our Covenants of Right Relationship,
Oct 4	Church Administrators' Meeting, Concord NH
Oct 15	The Multigenerational Congregation, 10am-4pm, Portsmouth, NH
Oct 21	Congregational Systems -The Theory, Concord Church NH
Oct 22	Congregational Systems -The Practice: What do we do with it now?
Oct 28-30	NNED Youth Assembly at Ferry Beach
Nov 11-12	Harvest the Power leadership training, First Training session
Dec 2-3	Harvest the Power leadership training- first session continued.

2012

Jan 17, 2012	Congregationally based justice work-Conference Call 7-8:30pm
Feb 11	Multigenerational Worship & Music Planning, 10-4pm, Concord NH
Feb 14	Church Administrators' Meeting, District Office, Concord NH
Feb 18	Snow date for Feb 11th Multigenerational Worship & Music Planning
Mar 3	RPM – Crisis Happens Workshop, Milford, NH
Mar 10	RPM – Crisis Happens Workshop, Auburn, ME
Mar 13	Snow date for Feb 14th Church Admin Meeting
Mar 21	Congregationally based justice work-Conference Call 7-8:30pm
Mar 24	RPM – Crisis Happens Workshop in VT (location TBD)
Mar 24	Heart of the Covenant: Developing & Living the Covenant, Saco ME
Mar 30-31	Harvest the Power leadership training, Second Training session, Highland Center, Crawford Notch NH
March 31	The Spirituality of Grand parenting, 10am-4pm, Concord, NH
Apr 13-14	NNED Spring Conference at the Red Jacket, North Conway NH
May 4-5	Harvest the Power leadership, second training session continued, Highland Center, Crawford Notch NH
May 18-20	Women & Religion Retreat
June 12	Church Administrators' Meeting, FUUS, Exeter NH
Aug 24-26	Curriculum Renaissance Module
Summer 2012	GOLDMINE Youth Leadership School
Sept 21-23	Women & Religion Retreat
Oct 20	Developing Plateau Strategies



Our Whole Lives (OWL) Combined K-1 & 4-6 Sexuality Education Leadership Training

**Friday, September 23 (5 pm) - Sunday, September 25 (3pm)
2011; Ferry Beach, Saco ME**

***Our Whole Lives* is a comprehensive, kindergarten through adult sexuality education curriculum series. It provides youth with accurate information on sexual health, human development, sexual behavior, relationships, and personal skills in the supportive setting of their faith community. This workshop trains teachers in how to teach participants about sexuality in age-appropriate ways. The workshop will focus on the curricula for grades K-1 and 4-6.**

To be certified as *Our Whole Lives* teachers, individuals are expected to: demonstrate a commitment to a values-based, comprehensive sexuality education; have a willingness to affirm the *Our Whole Lives* program goals, values, and philosophy; have an ability to provide a safe, engaging learning environment; and have an appreciation for working with people of diverse races, cultures, ages, abilities, and sexual and gender orientations.

Note: This training has an evaluation component. Trainers will be evaluating participants on facilitation skills, comfort with the materials and behavioral appropriateness. Any concerns will be brought up with the individual. At the end of the training, you will be approved (or not) as an OWL leader.

Cost: \$265 per person, including meals and dormitory style room. Registration is due by August 29, 2011. Enrollment is limited. All registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**Save the date for 2012!
September 21-23
Location TBD**



Youth Advisor Training
September 10, 2011
10:00 am—3:00 pm
Second Congregational Society Unitarian Universalist
274 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH
\$20 per person (includes lunch)
Payable to NNED: 10 Ferry St. #318 Concord, NH 03301

This training will present core issues, philosophies and skills needed to advise and work with youth. This training is designed for new advisors looking for the basics, as well as seasoned advisors looking for support from their peers & new ideas to bring back to their group. Topics covered include community building, balanced programming, liability issues, healthy boundaries, upholding trust, involvement in the congregation, and more.

Who should attend the Youth Advisor Training? New and seasoned advisors who want to understand the basics of youth ministry. It is a great networking and support possibility for advisors who have been doing youth ministry.

Facilitators: Kim Paquette, NNED & Rev. Jennifer Lentz, Yarmouth. ME

Conference Calls for DREs

Monthly conference calls will take place on the first Wednesday of every month (Oct - June) from 7:00 - 8:30 pm with Multigenerational Ministry Director, Kimberly Paquette. This "conference call cluster" will talk about challenges, experiences, and resources helpful to DREs. This call is open to all DREs within NNED, regardless of their involvement with their local cluster.

**Creating Connections
NNED UU Women & Religion Fall Retreat
September 30 – October 2, 2011
Geneva Point Conference Center
Moultonborough, NH**



Please join the women of the UU Northern New England District for a weekend of connections and community building. This weekend we will be offering several workshops including Runes, Intuition, Sacred Circle Dancing, Writing and Discussion, Art, and Yoga Dance. In addition we will have time for pampering and foot soaking, the Water Ceremony on Saturday evening and a Worship Service and business meeting on Sunday morning. Remember that this is your weekend and you may participate in as many or as few of the workshops, events as you want. Details including the schedule, what to bring and directions will follow in August. Information will be posted on the NNED website soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Faith Barnes at faithb.56@gmail.com or at 207-729-3032.

Women & Religion Retreats 2012

**Please save the dates for these wonderful, relaxing, creative
and community building retreats to be held in 2012 on:**

May 18-20

September 21-23

- Locations to be determined -

No
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Harvest the Power: Leadership Development Training

Last fall and winter, at 4 different locations in the Northern New England District, leaders and potential leaders from 20 different UU churches/fellowships participated in Leadership Training sessions using the UUA's Harvest the Power Program. The sessions were lead by trained facilitators from throughout the District, most were leaders in their own organizations.

Harvest the Power is part of the "Tapestry of Faith" adult curriculum being created for the UUA and consists of 12 units delving into major leadership development themes and provides self-reflection for new and experienced leaders. Through our personal and communal stories, theological reflection is found.

This is an amazing training effort for your emerging and existing leaders. They will come away with basic knowledge of your congregation as a system; the differences between management and leadership; how adaptive leaders function; how history and polity inform leadership in UU churches; how to manage anxiety and conflict; and how our faith grows when we lead from our centers. The program is based on personal, communal and societal narrative as the basis for theological reflection as the members deepen their faith and lead our congregations into the future.

If you missed your opportunity to attend yourself, or to send leaders and potential leaders from your organization last year, Harvest the Power has returned for another year. In 2011-2012 the sessions will be conducted on two non-consecutive weekends, Friday night and all day Saturday at the Highland Center, Crawford Notch, NH. The first Program will be on **November 11-12** and **December 2-3**. The second Program will be held on **March 30-31** and **May 4-5**. All training materials will be provided. Food and lodging will be available at the Highland Center. Information on pricing and registration will be available on the NNED website soon.



CONGREGATIONALLY BASED JUSTICE WORK Conference Calls to Explore, Network and Share Ideas

Three facilitated conference calls to learn and share experiences with the process of doing justice work as congregations. Congregationally Based Justice work brings more collective energy and impact to issues, and has the potential to transform congregational life. (more information below)

Come join the conversation from the comfort of your home or congregation:

September 21, Wednesday	7:00-8:30 PM
January 17, Tuesday	7:00-8:30 PM
March 21, Wednesday	7:00-8:30 PM

Contact information for the conference calls will be sent in two ways:

1. by direct email to Social Justice Chairs
2. in packets of information from the district sent as an email to congregational ministers and presidents (called **ePacs**). Any person or committee may receive ePacs directly by going to the NNED website (www.nned.uua.org) and entering your email address in the sign-up box at the top right of the front page.

Congregationally Based Justice Work:

- Uses a congregational process to identify and affirm the work
- Is an expression of the congregation's mission
- Engages the congregation spiritually and morally on an ongoing basis (grounding and evaluating the work through these values)
- Engages the congregation at multiple levels
- Intentionally builds a sense of community and partnership within and without the congregation

For more information about Congregationally Based Justice work, email **kbrammer@uua.org**



Presented by the NNED Right Relations Task Force:

**Heart of the Matter:
Living Our Covenants of Right Relationships
October 1, 2011 9:30 am—3:00 pm
Second Congregational Society UU, Concord NH**

Congregational teams are invited to attend this workshop which addresses the unique historical tradition of covenants in Unitarian Universalism, how we are in relationship with each other in congregations, why right relationships are important, and how we live and work with the covenants in our lives. This is the first of a series of workshops on covenanting and right relations.

**Heart of the Covenant: Developing and Living the Covenant
March 24, 2012 9:30 am—3:00 pm
UU Church of Saco and Biddeford, Saco ME**

Congregational teams are invited to attend this workshop that will address the process of developing a congregational covenant for the entire congregation or for smaller groups within the congregation. The discussion will also include how to implement the covenant and continue to live it over time. This is the second in a series of workshops presented by the NNED Right Relations Taskforce. **Attendance at *Heart of the Matter* is a prerequisite for this workshop.**

FEES per workshop:

Cost per team of up to 5 participants	\$100
Additional per person charge for lunch over 5 registrants	\$ 10
Single registration	\$ 40



Collective Food Drive September 25 - October 1, 2011

Plan to collect food this week to share with your State's Food Bank or another local organization. Join us in NH, ME, or VT as we **sort food at the Food Bank on Saturday, Oct. 1st...** or make arrangements to serve a local organization.

BE CREATIVE! The possibilities are endless and the need is great.

This is an opportunity to involve folks of all ages as we serve our communities. Resources may be found on our website.

Congregational Systems: Theory and Practice October 21-22, 2011

Second Congregational Society UU
Concord NH

Friday, October 21 (7-9 pm): The Theory
Saturday, October 22 (10am-3:30pm):
The Practice: What do we do with it now?

Connie Goodbread has worked with Rev. Peter Steinke, who took up much of the good work of the pioneer in healthy congregational systems theory, Ed Friedman after Ed's death. Connie has spent a decade working in Unitarian Universalist congregations all over the United States to help UUs understand healthy congregational theory and how to put it into practice and make it serve their congregations. Many of those who too the NNED Leadership Intensives last year, Harvest the Power, asked for more in depth work on the practical aspects of using this theory to strengthen congregations. We are excited to be able to respond to this request with a dynamic, centered, vivacious and knowledgeable leader. If you do not know much (or anything) about healthy congregational systems theory, please attend the Friday evening session as well as the Saturday one. Saturday will not make any sense if you are not familiar with the theory. *Check the NNED website for registration information: www.nned.uua.org*



The Multigenerational Congregation
October 15, 2011
10:00am - 4:00 pm
South Church, Portsmouth NH

Who is present in your congregation? Each generation has its own unique characteristics and life experiences to share. What are they? What can this mean for our faith communities?

Join our Multigenerational Ministry Director, Kim Paquette, in a day of learning more about the generations of people we serve, their spiritual needs, current trends, and how this can impact congregational life.

This workshop is open to anyone interested in learning more about the generations and being in multigenerational community.

Cost: \$15 per person/\$30 per team

Multigenerational Worship and Music Planning

February 11, 2012

February 18, 2012 (SNOW DATE)

10:00am - 4:00 pm

Second Congregational Society UU, Concord NH

Looking to plan a Multigenerational worship service? Afraid you'll have to over-simplify to engage the kids, but at the same time lose the adults? Worried it won't be a worshipful experience for all?

Join our Multigenerational Ministry Director, Kim Paquette, as we engage in conversation about planning worship with a multigenerational team, meeting the needs of your audience, and sharing our success stories.

This workshop is advised for anyone involved or interested in crafting a multigenerational worship service: Ministers, DREs, worship committees, music directors, youth groups, etc.

Cost: \$15 per person/\$30 per team



**NNED Youth Assembly
Ferry Beach, Saco ME
October 28–October 30, 2011**

We begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and go until 11:30 am on Sunday.

Join youth from all over the Northern New England District for a weekend of fun, learning and community building. This event will include a dynamic keynote speaker, unique worship, workshops co-lead by our youth, and lots of opportunities for bonding and expressing our UU values, (including a Costume Dance Party!) This is your chance to get to know the youth in your area and from around the region, to develop your UU identity, and have a lot of fun!

There will be separate housing and workshop tracks for Junior Youth (12-14) and Senior Youth (14-18), with shared meal times.

Cost: \$125

Cluster Meetings for Religious Educators

Cluster meetings are a time for religious educators to discuss important concerns, share resources, support each other, worship together, learn new things and engage in self-care.

They usually happen once a month (or every other month) and everyone meets for about 3 hours. Please contact your fellow DREs for more information.

Northern VT	Martha Dallas	martha@uusociety.org
Southern VT	TBD	
Southern NH	Cindy Spring	cspring2@mac.com
Southern Maine	Allison Gammons	allisondre@gmail.com
Midcoast Maine	Carney Doucette	carney_doucette@yahoo.com

"RPM" Gatherings are back!
(Religious Educators, Presidents & Ministers)



Crisis Happens.
Are we as ready as possible?
Preparing Congregationally and Across the District
for smaller or larger scale tragedy

Whether talking about natural or human caused trauma that occurs within a congregation or across state and national borders, it is incredibly helpful to have planned strategies ahead of time.

- Important information, resources and skills will be shared.
- Time will be made available for basic congregational planning.

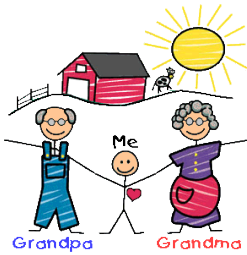
Registration is required through the District Office.
Cost of registration is \$25 per team
Lunch will be provided.

Teams of 3 Only:

Religious Educators, Presidents and Ministers. If there isn't a Religious Educator or Minister in the congregation, a team of 3 lay leaders is acceptable.

The same program will be repeated on 3 different Saturdays in March from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

March 3, 2012	Laconia, New Hampshire
March 10, 2012	Auburn, Maine
March 24, 2012	Woodstock, Vermont



The Spirituality of Grandparenting **March 31, 2012** **Second Congregational Society UU** **Concord NH**

Come take a day to talk about the joys of being a grandparent!. We will talk about the roles grandparents play in their families and with their grandchildren. We'll talk about the complexities of being a local grandparent, and being a long distance grandparent. We will share ways in which we can pass on wisdom and tell our stories.

This workshop is for new grandparents, seasoned grandparents, and grandparents to be. It is also for any adult who has a special relationship with a child or youth as a grand-buddy.

Participants are encouraged to bring photos of their grandchildren to share.

Cost: \$15

Church Administrator Meetings

Please encourage your administrative staff person to attend the church administrator meetings! Please support them by closing the office three days per year, by offering to reimburse mileage, by doing everything possible to show your administrator that their professional development is important to you and to the church. Your administrator will come back refreshed, infused with new ideas and with a network of people at their side! Each meeting offers time to share experiences, resources, network with fellow administrators, and participate in planned programming.

There are 3 meetings planned for this year:

October 4

February 14 (March 13 snow date)

June 12

UU Church, Concord NH

District office, Concord NH

First UU Society, Exeter, NH



NNED Congregations Work Together for Environmental Sustainability

- * To deepen our UU faith
- * To increase our collective impact on major issues of the day
- * Share experiences and encouragement and nurture new leadership

September 24, 2011

350.org Moving Planet

NNED encourages the participation of all congregations in this year's global action to address the Climate Crisis. To register and for ideas and resources see www.350.org. Send your stories and photos to NNED to inspire our own climate action in May 2012 (see below).

September 25-October 1

Collective Food Drive (see page 7)

Get LOCAL FOOD to food pantries!

Earth Day through May 20, 2012

CO² Reduction: House, Congregation and Community

The District will build a packet of next step projects for NNED congregations. The projects will help individuals and congregations take the next step whether that be for local impact, increased spiritual depth, or work for paradigm shift. Congregations will be asked to share their stories with the district so that we can all learn more about what is possible when we work together. Stay tuned for more information.

Coming—Summer 2012

GOLDMINE Youth Leadership School



An intense six-day school for youth where you will:

- Develop your personal creed
- Deepen your knowledge of Unitarian Universalists' challenging Religious heritage and values
- Expand your skills for growing healthy groups
- Explore paths of worship
- Hone leadership skills so you can better heal our world
- Learn to be a better leader and communicator

SAVE THE DATE!

**Northern New England District
Annual Spring Conference & Business Meeting
Red Jacket Resort, North Conway, NH
April 13-14, 2012**



Curriculum Renaissance Module

August 24 - 26, 2012

Location to be determined

The goals for participants in the Curriculum Planning Module are:

- To clarify and expand ones understanding of curriculum in particular and religious education in general
- To understand the total curriculum planning process and to practice strategies to use the process effectively in ones own congregation
- To learn about a variety of curriculum sources and resources, including what is new, what is working well, and where to find these resources
- To become familiar with various models for "doing" religious education
- To practice evaluating and "tweaking" curricular plans
- To learn how to extend radical hospitality through curricular choices and implementation
- Working in teams, to develop useable curricular projects that can be brought home to Congregations
- To network with other religious educators and to feel affirmed and nurtured by a supportive community of religious educators

Leaders: This module will be co-led by DRE Cindy Beal from Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, MA and another leader to be determined.

**Developing Plateau Strategies
For Professional and Lay Leadership
Congregational TEAMS ONLY**

**SAVE THE DATE, Plan ahead
October 20, 2012**
(and follow-up electronic seminars)

For Congregations from 75 to 150 members

This workshop is for you if your congregation is dealing with issues that come with growth, including:

- Problematic Governing Process (Board, committees, by-laws)
- Confusion or tension around the roles of lay and professional leaders
- Problematic congregational decision making and communication
- Disruption in establishing a sense of belonging and intimacy

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is MAY 4, 2012 via the NNED office.

**Contact Karen Brammer for more information at
kbrammer@uua.org**



**NNED Environmental Conference
Save the Dates, Plan Ahead
November 9 – 10, 2012**

Enrollment in both days will not be required.

Quality programming will be available for people of all ages.

- Help create an NNED groundswell of UU energy
- Network
- Be inspired
- Share resources and information

For more information or to help prepare for the conference, contact Karen Brammer at **kbrammer@uua.org**

Northern New England District Consultant Program

What is the consultant program?

The Northern New England Consultant Program is offered by our Northern New England UU District (NNED) to provide excellent volunteers to lead board retreats, canvass workshops, strategic planning, and staff/committee start-ups, among others. We have chosen consultants with experience and skills from other areas of their life and have provided training so they can understand how to translate their other skills into church work. We have specially chosen these “stipended” volunteers for their ability to work with both small and mid-sized churches, boards and religious education programs. There are currently seventeen people serving in this consulting capacity in our three-state district. We have been fielding this team for three years and the congregational response to their work has been universally positive. How could your congregation benefit from this expertise? Call us and let’s talk it over!

How do I sign up?

All you need to do is e-mail Joy Blanchette, our office administrator (uua-me.nh.vt@comcast.net) and ask for a “Request for Consultation” form or call the office at 603-228-8704. She can send you a form electronically or snail mail.

After we receive a copy of the completed “Request” form back in our office, the staff finds the person on our roster who most closely meets the needs the congregation has identified. We then put the congregational contact person and the consultant in touch with each other and they plan together the ideal retreat to meet your congregation’s needs.

We ask that you give us at least three months of lead time for your request so we have the maximum opportunity to connect you with just the right consultant. We will attempt to find a consultant for you with less lead time, but it makes our task much more difficult.

What does it cost?

On the “Request” form that Joy will send you, there is sliding scale for the cost depending on your status as a Fair Share Congregation to the UUA and your status as a dues paying member of our Northern New England District. The cost is relatively minimal and many churches, both small and mid-sized have been able to easily afford this program. The NNED is your financial partner in making this service available.



The Northern New England District's website address is:

www.nned.uua.org

Be sure to log on to download flyers & registration forms. Also check out congregational, district, and regional news and events.

**NNED
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