

## Emerson Forum Issues Gain International Following

Three years ago, UUCT sponsored a series of community-focused programs marketed to audiences throughout Tampa Bay under “The Emerson Forum” trademark. The series focused on end of life care, with well-known Tampa Bay speakers presenting two, half day programs at the Stetson Law Center in downtown Tampa.

This year, three major developments in end of life care have attracted more international attention to the issue than at any time since Elisabeth Kubler-Ross published her international best-selling book *On Death and Dying*, in 1969.

- The Canadian Supreme Court unanimously legalized medical aid in dying in February and declared it to be “a constitutional right” for all Canadians. (The Canadian Unitarian Council was an Intervenor on behalf of the winning party in the case. A half million Canadians spend winters in Florida. )
- The U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has proposed paying physicians to discuss end of life care with their patients next year.
- Thirdly, last month [October], the State of California became the largest of five states to legalize medical aid in dying in the U.S.

**On Saturday, November 7, from 2-4 p.m.**, two nationally-known speakers will expand upon these issues at a free public program in the Octagon building of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2470 Nursery Road, in Clearwater.



**Barbara Mancini** will discuss “*Who Gets To Decide How You Die?*” She will share details of how she was involuntarily transformed from a quiet, Pennsylvania nurse taking care of her 93 year old father to an international media celebrity after being arrested for handing her father a hospice-prescribed medication.



**Mickey MacIntyre** will talk about the role his organization is playing to change U.S. laws that have criminalized medical aid in dying for decades. The organization’s most recent achievement was leading the successful campaign to legalize medical aid in dying in California. Mickey is the Chief Strategy Officer for Compassion & Choices. He has provided insight on end of life issues for the Diane Rehm Show on NPR, AARP, *The Huffington Post* and in testimony before the Institute of Medicine, leading to its landmark, 2014 publication, *Dying In America*.