



**In Celebration of our Free Religion,
The West Central Cluster of UU Congregations Presents – Church
Life 5.5. Five Workshops + Lunch**

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. (813) 988-8188**

Come and select among five workshops led by experts in congregational life. Share your experiences and network with other Unitarian Universalist leaders. You will walk away with useable tools.

10:00 - 10:20 – Gathering

10:20 - 10:30 – Welcome – Host Minister Rev. Patricia Owen; Cluster president, Jeffrey Harper.

10:30 - 11:00 - Keynote Address – Rev. Kenn Hurto - "Our Name Should Have Been: The Free Church in America"

THE WORKSHOPS –

11:00 - 12:30 - Concurrent Workshops

1. "The Difference That Makes a Difference: The Diversity in Our Unity." - Rev. Kenn Hurto. Our Universalist ancestors affirm "all souls would be saved," rejecting Calvin's hideous Doctrine of Election.

Today, the American dualism of the saved/damned, "real Americans"/"the undeserving immigrants, etc. replays itself in an increasingly polarized culture. Our faith calls us to be counter-counter cultural, to embrace a "beloved community" that neither minimizes our differences as though "we're all just the same here" nor uses our differing ways of thinking, being, valuing as an excuse to "otherize" those unlike us. How can we embrace a profound universalism? Should we?

2. "Congregations and Environmental Justice" – Rev. Bob Murphy. Florida is on the "front lines" in an era of climate change. Congregations are looking for something that they can do "that will be helpful" before their coastal communities drown. How can we organize Green Sanctuary congregations and

clusters that will do some good? How do we increase membership? Special emphasis on creating resilient communities while working for social justice. This is how-to-do-it information that congregations can use.

Lunch Break 12:30 - 1:15

Concurrent Workshops - 1:15 - 2:45

3. Trust and Vulnerable Leadership - the Answer to All Our Problems -

Connie Goodbread. Are we a trusting people? I don't mean are you a trusting person I mean as Unitarian Universalist religious communities - are we a trusting people? Unitarian Universalism - the free faith - is the same size today as it was in 1961. What keeps it from growing? Unitarian Universalism has a life saving message of hope, love, justice, courage and joy. It supports people as they become and become and become yet again. It is a covenantal not a creedal faith. It is a pluralistic not fundamental faith. It is a living faith. It is pro human rights and fights for equality. It stands, sits, rolls, fights and lives on the side of love. Unitarian Universalism should be huge. This workshop will explore trust as the foundational value needed in Unitarian Universalism if we are to become the movement that the world needs us to be. We will talk about how trust is also essential if we are to develop vulnerable and courageous leaders.

4. "Caring for Caring" - Rev. Katy Korb. The work of caring for the needs of individuals in our congregations often seems like something that we can never do enough of, particularly in our lay-led fellowships, but also in larger congregations with full-time ministers. How can we do it better? What about compassion fatigue, people falling through the cracks, all the things that plague even those for whom this is their most fulfilling work? We'll look for answers to these questions.

5. Putting the US in Cluster - Rev. Kenn Hurto, Margaret Evans, Jeff

Harper - The Purpose of our Cluster is to stimulate and strengthen Unitarian Universalism in West Central Florida, to promote communication and closer ties among the congregations, and to encourage support for the Southern Region, for the Unitarian Universalist Association and for its affiliate organizations. Let us come up with a plan and commitment to work together.

Closing - Rev. Patricia Owen.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Connie Goodbread focuses on Leadership and Faith Development for the UUA's Southern Region. She is a credentialed Director of Religious education with over twenty years experience.



Rev. Katy Korb is currently serving as ministerial advisor for the West Central Cluster. She has been a minister since 1979, having served churches in New London, CT, Farmington Hills, MI, New Orleans, LA, Naples and St. Petersburg, FL before retiring in 2014.



Reverend Kenneth Hurto, Lead Executive for the UUA's Southern Region, has served our ministry for over 40 years in a variety of parish settings.. He also has served in the UUA's Department of Ministry, chaired the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association CENTER (continuing education) committee, and served as Vice-President of the UUMA.



Rev. Bob Murphy Rev. Bob Murphy received a Special Service Award from the national Sierra Club because of his human rights work. He introduced the Green Sanctuary program during the 1990s. Rev. Murphy is the new minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs.



Margaret Evans is immediate past president of the West Central Cluster. She has served as Treasurer and Vice-president of the Florida District, Board member and officer at the Mountain, The Pines, the UU United Fellowship, etc, etc, etc.



Jeff Harper is the current president of the West Central Cluster. He has been on the Cluster Board as an officer or member for the past twelve years.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is open statewide. \$15 includes lunch. Please register by Feb. 5.

Name _____

Address _____

Workshop Preferences (circle) 1 2 3 4 5

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Congregation You Represent _____

Dietary restrictions _____

Mobility restrictions _____

Please include a check for \$15 made out to “West Central Cluster” and mail your registration to: PO Box 40311, St Petersburg, FL 33743

Or reserve by email to wcc@earthlink.net and pay at the door