



Please join the St. Lawrence District
Board of Trustees and Staff in welcoming

Karen LoBracco

As our new half-time Program Consultant beginning
July 1, 2008



We have been so fortunate to have Debby Herman as our District's acting Program Consultant for the past year. Debby will be leaving this position as of June 30, 2008 and we will certainly miss her. The SLD Board of Trustees has recognized the great value of the PC position to the District and has decided to increase the position from 16 hours to 20 hours and also to add benefits. A search was initiated in November 2007 and we are very pleased to announce that Karen LoBracco will be joining the St. Lawrence District staff as our new Program Consultant on July 1.

The 34 congregations of the St. Lawrence District are indeed fortunate to be able to utilize the resources that Karen will be offering as the result of nearly 11 years as a Director of Religious Education, 3 years as a member of the Mid-South District Board of Trustees, 8+ years as a member of the Mid-South District Religious Education Committee, and over 2 years as a LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Good Officer. Karen has served as DRE for a small growing congregation and a mid-sized congregation. Through her district work, she has provided mentoring and consultation to all sizes of congregations. Karen has extensive experience providing trainings and workshops that have been described as powerful, creative, and engaging. She has led sessions at Mid-South District conferences for 8 consecutive years, served on the faculty of *The Mountain's*

Leadership School for Religious Educators, and is a trained leader of the Administration and Multicultural RE Renaissance modules. During this past year she helped organize a district-wide RE Summit to which all leaders of congregational life were invited to focus and collaborate on issues related to religious education. Karen has established strong relationships with congregational Presidents and Ministers throughout her district, and has articulated a passion for promoting Family Ministry through partnering with these and other leaders. As an expression of her dedication, Karen has completed the necessary work to achieve RE Credentialing through the UUA. For these reasons and more, leaders in the Mid-South District characterize Karen as having “anchored” the RE programming in her district for many years. She is committed to shared ministry, anti-oppression work, community and team building, and the nurturing of volunteers.

Having lived in New York previously, Karen and her husband Bernie are planning to move from Georgia and return to NY permanently. During the transition Karen will be renting an apartment in Buffalo where she will reside for the majority of each month. Karen will be attending our District Assembly in April to learn more about our District and begin to form connections.

Though we will be bidding a sad farewell to Debby, we know that you will enjoy meeting Karen and will offer her a warm welcome as we prepare for her work with us starting this summer!

Karen Palmer, PC Search Committee Chair
Jacki Thompson, PC Search Committee member
Elayne Mosher, PC Search Committee member
Rev. Tom Chulak, ex-officio PC Search Committee member

The PC search committee thanks Debby Herman for acting as a vital resource throughout the search process.