

## Highlights of the SLD Board Meeting November 9-10, 2007

The St. Lawrence District Board met for its quarterly Board Meeting on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst. Prior to the start of the formal meeting, the Board met with Ministers, Presidents, and other leaders from the congregations in western New York. The discussion was lively and productive, and focused on the public radio advertising campaign that the WNY cluster is attempting to implement, and on possibilities for new models of ministerial support for the congregations of the cluster, several of whom are experiencing ministerial transitions.

Some highlights of the Board meeting are as follows:

- **Nominations:** The Board approved the nomination of Rev. Frances Manley of Niagara Falls to fill the Board seat recently vacated by Rev. Ken Mochel. Frances will serve until the Annual Meeting in April 2008. The Board also approved the recommendation of the SLD UU Ministers' Association that Rev. Priscilla Richter of Schenectady become the District Ministerial Settlement Representative, replacing Revs. Carl and Maureen Thitchener, who recently resigned due to Carl's illness.
- **Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development:** The Board put in place a process for the search for a new SLD Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development. Debbie Herman, who has been acting in that position since Spring 2007, has asked to step down at the end of this fiscal year in June 2008. The Board approved expanding this position to 20 hours per week with benefits. A search committee will be formed and should begin work on this in January.
- **District Assembly:** The Board heard a report from Linda Friedman, DA Coordinator, who is working with a "network" of SLD people to organize DA, including a Board representative, the Leadership Development Committee, RE/youth/YACM representatives, the Communications Consultant, the Office Administrator, a clergy representative, and local arrangements folks. The 2008 DA theme is "Sustainable Earth – A Call to Action", and it will be held Friday and Saturday April 26 and 27 in Owego, NY, with Binghamton as the host congregation. Linda discussed the program and arrangements, and expects flyers to be ready by February. Any congregations or individuals with proposals for speakers or workshops should contact Linda ([davelin@frontiernet.net](mailto:davelin@frontiernet.net)).
- **Finances:** Treasurer Roger Theilking discussed the state of the SLD finances. The transition of the bookkeeping to Patrick Roach of Little Falls is proceeding. The final results of the 2006-07 fiscal year were reviewed, and the District showed a small positive balance. Income and expenses for 2007-08 are on track.

- **District Executive Report:** Tom Chulak reported on many of his activities, and highlighted the initial benefits of the pilot Four District Collaboration program, also know as New Regional Group (NRG). This collaboration includes St. Lawrence, Metro, Joseph Priestly, and Ohio-Meadville Districts, and allows the district staff to work together on programming. Current projects include the UU Leadership Team Institute, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, a large church conference, youth programming, and a proposal for a 4-District Growth Consultant.
- **PC for Lifespan Faith Development:** Debbie Herman discussed her many activities in support of children's religious education, youth, and young adult and campus ministry. She continues to work with YACM Consultant Robbie Brydon to define his role and use his time most effectively. Debbie noted that we will need to seek a new Youth Coordinator to replace Jody Brown, who is retiring, for 2008-09. She also distributed the first draft of a new Safety Policy for District events involving children and youth.
- **Chalice Lighters:** The Board approved the recommendation of the Growth Committee for a Chalice Lighter Grant to the First Unitarian Church of Rochester for partial support of a Youth Ministry Coordinator for one year. The Growth Committee felt that this proposal would have the greatest impact on growth in the District. Rochester's recent rapid growth has taxed their resources to provide quality programs for youth.

For more information on the Board meeting and specific individual reports, please visit the SLD website [www.sld.uua.org](http://www.sld.uua.org).