

Items of Interest from the February 2007 St. Lawrence District Board Meeting and following Conference Call

Youth Ministry: Those who attended our district youth ministry conversation in January recommended that we develop resource packets on topics of interest to youth which could be available to youth advisors; that we hold more cluster-based or regional youth advisor trainings in the district; that we offer training in youth empowerment to district congregations; that we involve more youth in the district through cluster and program committee meetings; and that we add more information about youth to the district website. The board asked our Acting Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development, Debby Herman, to work with us and other district groups to meet these needs.

Shared District Staff: St. Lawrence and three other districts, working with Congregational Services and District Services of the Unitarian Universalist Association, have agreed to share staff services for a three-year trial period. This experiment should allow us to strengthen training, networking, and support services for congregations and to expand staff resources across the districts.

Financial Controls: At the recommendation of the finance committee, the board approved records retention and conflict of interest policies and agreed to seek a part-time bookkeeper for the district. In addition, the board recommended to the District Annual Meeting a 2007-2008 budget which includes a scholarship support line for the new four-district summer leadership school, Unitarian Universalist Leadership Training Institute, and, at Tom Chulak's recommendation, new program consultant positions for a planning consultant and a district reporter. Jeanne Crane has agreed to continue to work with us as the planning consultant, and I look forward, as I leave the board, to serving as district reporter.

2007 - 2008 Officers: I will complete my third year as president and my second term on the board this year, and Robb Smith will complete his third year as vice-president and his first term on the board. Ernie Hall from the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady has agreed to serve as president next year, and Karen Palmer from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta will take the vice president's position. Ernie and Karen are creative, energetic, and truly committed to Unitarian Universalism; we are very lucky that they have agreed to lead the district.

- Ellen Asprooth
President, St. Lawrence District