

Subject: Fwd: Chicago Area UU Council Newsletter

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 12:25:09 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Mike Gilley

BCC: administrator@FirstUChicago.org, ajaymaya@att.net, board@dupageuuchurch.org, Board@PrairieCircleUUC.org, bot@secondunitarian.org, c_n_sassy@hotmail.com, cfis@sbcglobal.net, churchadmin@uuccpf.org, danaprds@yahoo.com, genea2@juno.com, jmarling7@comcast.net, jpthorner@sbcglobal.net, Ms. Diane Morgenthaler, lilactown@comcast.net, loomised@gmail.com, LRSprietsma@sbcglobal.net, minister@uusg.org, Kate Learson, office@unitytemple.org, oos@uuce.org, phieferbrowne@comcast.net, uce@ucevanston.org, UCHinsdaleGS@gmail.com, vobrien13@comcast.net, Adam Gough, Agnes Kovacs, Alan Greenland, Alec Brownlow, Alice Ocrey, Alison Vernon, Allen, Amira Boctor, Andrea Freerksen, Andrea Lee, Andy, Anne Thomason, Arvid Straube, B Morris Anderson, Barbara Shoshal, Ben McAdams, Benjamin Tompkins, Berlinda Browne, Bernice McCarthy, Beth Fischer, Betty Virginia Holcomb, Bill Koehl, Board of Trustees, Board of Trustees, Brian Doyle, Brian Nielsen, Bruce Bendix, Caroline Bailey, Carrie MacDonald, Cathy Cornell, Cheryl Clayton, Chris Tellez, Christine Organ, Clare Roarty, Dan Feldt, Dan Yokas, Darren Howard, Dave May, David & Mena Boulanger, David Llull, Deb Brod, Deb?, Debbie Connet, Denise Seeber, Diane Barnes, Dr. Mary Lamb Shelden, Edward White, Elea Hall, Evan Freund, Frankie Tilbrook, Gemma Guenther, George Motto, Gerry Messler, Gloria Walsh, Irene Raven, J Nugent, Jamie Carroll, Janet Burns, Jean McCollum, Jeff Stanley, Jennifer Gray-Gracen, Jennifer Stamatakos, Jenny Hobbs, Jill Althage, Jim Frazier, Joan Pederson, Johanna Ryan, John Tolley, Jon Nedland, Jonathan Schlesinger, Judith Schader, Karen Greenland, Karen Hunt Ahmed, Karen Lindebrekke, Karen Seymour-Ells, Kathie Schur, Kathleen Sealark, Kathryn Gelder, Kathy S, Ken Koresch, Ken Mandell, Kevin Beyer, Kevin O'Neill, Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Kortsch, Krista MacTavish, Laura Gillberg, Laura Mandell, Leanne Mull, Leo Monroy, Leslie Peet, Leslie Takahashi, Liinda Rio Reichmann, Linda Fuller, Linda Vogt, Lisa Bohne, Lisa Hecklere, Liz Reyes, M. 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March 2022 Newsletter

Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council (CAUUC)



In this issue:

- APRIL 2: "Kiss the Ground": movie screening
- MAY 14: Vote Love Kick off - save the date!
- JUNE 1: CAUUC Annual Meeting & Affinity Group
- Affinity Groups - Connect with area UUs -join now!
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Volunteer Opportunities - we need you!

Kiss the Ground documentary viewing on April 2nd



How about some good news for a change?

KISS THE GROUND unveils a game-changer to our climate crisis: the Earth's own soil. Here it is...we can reverse global warming. The solution is called "Regenerative Agriculture" and this film presents the research, practice, and hope we need to move forward. Together.

Right now, soil might be the last thing on your mind. But in a moment when the future of our planet and humankind is at stake, nothing may be more important than regenerating the ground beneath us. We're in need of a kind of hope we've never felt before.

Regenerative Agriculture can: revive farmer prosperity, reduce flooding and drought, replenish freshwater sources, reduce fire hazards, reverse global warming, recreate regional access to nutrient-dense food, reduce toxic pesticides & fertilizers, reduce dead zones & water pollution, reverse extinction, and reconnect humanity & nature.

The documentary **KISS THE GROUND** that provides a solution to heal our planet and keep our species away from the extinction list will be screened via Zoom on April 2, 2022, at 10:00 AM (Central Time). The screening is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist.

There will be a Q&A session after the movie with Ryland Englehart, a co-founder and Executive Director of Kiss the Ground.

MOVIE TRAILER: [Watch the movie trailer.](#)



Click on the button to register!

Donations to support environmental work at Countryside Church UU will be gratefully received. All donations will be shared with [Kiss the Ground](#). To donate, go to ccuu.org/donate and select "other". Please note on the form that this donation is for the *Kiss the Ground* screening.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vote Love Kick off - Vote Your Values

Saturday, May 14th 9:30am-early afternoon

Location: Online (Zoom) and in-person at Abraham Lincoln UU in Springfield, IL.



Voting our values is a critical way to advocate in our communities. Knowing how our values inform what and who we vote for is a critical step to ensuring we live in communities working toward a just and equitable world. This year as we live into the impact of the 2020 census results we will be called upon to vote for most of our elected officials. Imagine being able to show up with the power of knowing your vote supports your core values. This time will be filled with practical learning and application of several key skills related to getting out the vote. We plan to have basic training in:

- text & phone bank basics
- distributing voter information
- door to door canvassing
- value circle fundamentals.

We are planning for a worship service, keynote presentation, training workshops related to voter engagement, and affinity group gatherings.

We hope you will join us as we kick off our statewide campaign to vote our values!

Registration details to follow.

Brought to you by UUANI with support from CAUUC.



SAVE THE DATE!

CAUUC ANNUAL MEETING & AFFINITY GROUP MEET-UP

Wednesday, June 1st 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING



Register to participate in the Affinity Group meet-ups at <https://uuchicagoarea.org/conference>

The Annual Meeting will incorporate 3 elements followed by the networking session:

- 1) Reports from the President and Treasurer
- 2) Election of officers and directors to the CAUUC board

President: TBD

VP: Darren Howard

Treasurer: Janet Burns

Secretary: Irene Raven

Representative / Past President - Mike Gilley

- 3) Approval of the proposed budget for 2022-23

4) Affinity groups/**networking sessions** with Chicago area UUs to build relationships and encourage collaboration because we can get more done working together across Chicago area UU congregations.

The following AFFINITY GROUPS are invited to attend, share, plan, and collaborate:

- Board & Leadership Development
- Buildings & Grounds

- Membership & Welcoming
- Religious Education & Adult Faith Development
- Social & Environmental Justice
- Social Media & Advertising
- Stewardship & Fundraising
- Technical Team
- Young Adult Groups



Learn • Share • Connect



Affinity Groups: Facilitating Learning, Collaboration, and Collective Action

Many CAUUC conference attendees have provided responses to our feedback survey question: What was the best part of the event? Here are representative responses: Breakout sessions, connecting with people from other congregations, conversations with people, sharing with people, learning what's going on in other congregations, hearing directly from leaders about what they are doing and their challenges. They also gave feedback indicating an interest to stay in contact with each other or be able to reconnect. This feedback led us to create affinity groups--groups for UUs that share a common interest or role.

CAUUC's Affinity Group strategy offers 3 types of person-to-person interactions:

- Virtual gatherings at our semi-annual conferences,
- Ad hoc virtual gatherings using Zoom, and
- Online discussion forums using Google Groups

The online Google Groups that we have created thus far include:

- UUChicagoArea-**Board and Leadership Development**
- UUChicagoArea-**Buildings and Grounds**
- UUChicagoArea-**Lifespan Religious Education**
- UUChicagoArea-**Membership**
- UUChicagoArea-**Stewardship**
- UUChicagoArea-**Social Justice** [Social Justice/Environmental Justice]
- UUChicagoArea-**Social Media**
- UUChicagoArea-**TechTeam**
- UUChicagoArea-**Young Adults**

Want to get plugged into an Affinity Group right now? We're happy to add you so you can get communicating! If you are familiar with using Google Groups, you can search for the groups listed above and request membership. If you are not familiar with use of Google Groups, please send an email and we'll get you registered. Click on [REGISTER ME FOR A CAUUC AFFINITY GROUP](#) to launch your email with a pre-populated email message to request membership in the groups you're interested in. If you are familiar with Google Groups, you can go to groups.google.com and search for our group names

listed above.



If you use Google Calendar, subscribe to our calendar by adding "chicagoareaUU@gmail.com"

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chicago Area UU Council (CAUUC) Events

- MAY 14: UUANI Spring Conference via [ZOOM](#) Register [here](#)
- JUNE 1: Annual Meeting - Online/Zoom

UU Prison Ministry of Illinois (UUPMI) Events

- None scheduled

UU Action Network of Illinois (UUANI) Events

MAY 14: UUANI/CAUUC Spring Conference - Online and in-person (Abraham Lincoln Springfield, IL)

Denominational/Regional UU Events

- MidAmerica Region Events Calendar [info](#)
- MidAmerica Regional Assembly - [registration](#)
- APR 30 - Virtual MidAmerica Regional Assembly

Coalition Events with Other Faith Traditions

Volunteer Opportunities - We need you!

Is volunteer work part of your spiritual practice? CAUUC has several roles we are looking to fill. The CAUUC board will be meeting virtually on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7pm-9pm.

- **Congregational Liaison/Representative** - if your congregation doesn't have a member on the CAUUC board, the congregational liaison is a communications channel between your congregation and CAUUC.
- **CAUUC Board Member/Officer** - Board member candidates are put forth by the CAUUC Nominating Committee and voted on at our Annual Meeting (June 1st). Board members are the operations backbone of CAUUC. We plan and run our spring and fall conferences, manage our social media platforms, and stay attuned to the needs of congregations in pursuit of our mission of growing UUism and strengthening congregations.
- **Conference Volunteers** - When we meet in person, we always have needs of volunteers to assist with music and worship, registration, food planning and kitchen help.
- **Reporter/Writer/Photographer/PR** - We also need people to help with news stories, picture taking, and event reporting to help with our various communications platforms.
- **Website/Application Development** - We are also looking for people that have technical expertise to help us stay current with new technologies that can help UUs communicate, organize, and locate people with similar interests or roles.

If any of these sound like something you're interested in or you'd like to learn more about, please contact us at: UUChicagoArea@gmail.com

CAUUC Mission Statement

The Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council is composed of UU congregations located in the greater Chicago Area. Our mission is to support member congregations by working together to achieve a common goal of promoting Unitarian Universalist principles. Our work involves:



- increasing the visibility of the UU community to the greater Chicago community such as through radio advertising, social media work, and the web;
- promoting advocacy of social justice;
- strengthening our congregations through sharing of programs, particularly for

leadership development; and

- entering into appropriate coalitions with other faith traditions which share our core values.

For more information about serving as a CAUUC congregational representative or to get involved in other ways, contact us at either uuchicagoarea@gmail.com or chicagoareauu@gmail.com.

CAUUC Web Site: uuchicagoarea.org

[VISIT CAUUC ON THE WEB](#)



UUChicagoArea@gmail.com

