



Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone receiving the first issue of the Cluster Network Quarterly. And a huge thanks to all the Ministerial and Lay Leaders across the country who for the past several months have shared information about Clusters in their areas.

Our Vision

To be a national forum for UUs to share information about their Clusters.

What's a Cluster

Clusters are composed of UU Congregations generally located within a "few gallons of gas" of one another. For instance, the **Greater New Orleans UU Cluster** has three Churches in the city. In the **Western Carolinas Cluster**, 13 Congregations are only miles apart.

To grow our faith throughout America, Clusters work on a variety of projects, events and issues, including social justice, music, religious education, marketing and public relations.

Close Up

UUs of Eastern Tennessee

Who Westside UU Church (Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh), Tennessee Valley UU Church (Rev. Chris Buice), Oak Ridge UU Church (Rev. Jake Morrill), Holston Valley UU Church (Rev. Jacqueline Luck) and Foothills UU Fellowship (Sara Jacobus).

Meetings Monthly for lunch.

Mileage Holston Valley UU Church doesn't make most meetings because of distance but is included on emails and is "always welcome at the table."

Tidbit Individual congregations donate collectively to two public radio stations through UUs of Eastern Tennessee.

Headline Tennessee Valley UU Church experienced deadly shootings in 2008.

Closing "The Cluster is an excellent reminder that none of us are doing this work alone. In a small religious movement, the presence of mutual support is important and the Cluster facilitates that support." ~Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh

Updates

Arizona

A Cluster of Ministers, Directors of Religious Education, Music Directors and Administrators meets three times a year.

Asheville, North Carolina

Thirteen congregations are in the Western North Carolina Cluster.

Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi

Clusters of Ministers and DREs meet regularly.

Boulder/Denver

The Cluster provides regular programs, training and dialogue between Congregations. Congregations cooperate on the PrideFest Parade and raise money to support public radio.

Central North Carolina

A newly reorganized Cluster has been created.

Chicago

Chicago Area UU Council includes 29 Congregations.

Des Moines

Congregations sponsor programming on Iowa Public Radio.

East Tennessee

Five congregations are working together after modeling the North Carolina experience.

Houston

The Cluster has undertaken a strategy involving intensive lay theological education for all the Houston-area UU Churches. A lay theological institute is also being created.

Minneapolis/St. Paul

Ministers of the larger Congregations meet every other month; Presidents of the larger Congregations hold dinner meetings every other month or so and Presidents of the smaller Congregations hold quarterly dinner meetings.

Phoenix

Lead and Associate Ministers of four area Congregations meet monthly.

Portland, Oregon

Area Ministers meet regularly.

San Diego County

The San Diego County UU Network will sponsor the first annual Social Justice Conference on February 27. Adam Gerhardtstein, Campaign Manager of the UUA's "Standing on the Side of Love" Campaign, will be the keynote speaker.



Cluster Network

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Quotable

"Our Cluster was born of necessity from the disaster of Katrina and levee failures in New Orleans. We have collaborated on several service projects, social justice activities and services."

~**Alice Kemp**, Administrator

"There is considerable interest in collaboration that will enhance the programs that can be offered by the individual congregations with the ultimate goal to increase the number of practicing Unitarian Universalists on the Delmarva Peninsula."

~**Dave Sheppard**, Newark, Delaware

"The biggest project with broad participation is Hands on Housing, a home repair event held twice a year (in Austin)."

~**Rev. Kathleen Ellis**, Live Oak UU Church

Sites

UU Ministers Association
www.uuma.org

UU Musicians Network
www25.uua.org/uumn

Liberal Religious Educators Association
www.lreda.org

Feedback

Please email your Cluster news and activities by March 15 for the next Cluster Network Quarterly.

Cluster Network Quarterly

A Network of Neighborhoods

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To find UU Clusters online, go to:
www.uusandiego.org/links.htm

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