



# NTAUUS

## Unitarian Universalists of North Texas

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Dear Friends:

At the end of the calendar year, I guess it's time we got out the **2008-2009 Annual Report**. I want to thank everyone for your support as I settle in as NTAUUS president. It has been a rough year for some of our congregations, but most seem to be coming out of their 'rough patches.'

I want to start off with the good news that our new website design is up and running, including a 'splashpage' to greet newcomers! I invite you to visit and check out all the details and information that Scott Grey, our new webmaster, (!) has squeezed in. Now that it's ready, we can soon start running some spots on KERA 90.1, thanks to a generous donor. We will even be advertising an address that's easier to remember- [northtexasuu.org](http://northtexasuu.org), and have purchased several variations of the spelling, including [northtxuu.org](http://northtxuu.org), [northtxuu.org](http://northtxuu.org), and [txuu.org](http://txuu.org).

We also welcome Patsy Roe as our new treasurer, as Howard McMahan concludes his years of service in that post. Thank you, Howard, for all that you do.

In April of 2008, twenty-some folks from nine NTAUUS congregations gathered at Horizon UU for a Social Action workshop led by two UUA facilitators. The biggest need I heard that day was for a communications network, and I am glad to say that we have used the listserv function to create groups that can connect leaders to their counterparts in other congregations. So far, the response has been lackluster, but the word is slowly getting out. To see the list of groups or request a new one, look for **Affinity Groups** under **Resources** at [ntauus.org](http://ntauus.org).

In September, at least 150 UU's from at least eight congregations gathered for the Dallas Pride Parade and passed out thousands of handheld fans as part of our outreach. Next year we plan on again having a booth in the park. *Committee, registration opens in April, and placement in the parade depends on when the application is received!* We also have another opportunity to get out our message of welcome to the BGLT community at February's meeting in Dallas of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force- we will be asking people to staff our booth, and there are three UU-sponsored workshops. For registration details, visit [creatingchange.org](http://creatingchange.org).

When the economic crunch combined with assorted internal factors, progress on the co-housing project ground to a halt. With a bit of money from NTAUUS for marketing and a small core of dedicated members, Wildflower Village may yet come to fruition. Find out more at [wildflowervillage.org](http://wildflowervillage.org)

The other good news is that the Endowment Committee was able to restore the grants, and has announced \$110,000 is available to our congregations. I have sent information to your presidents and the NTAUUS representatives, and it is posted on our website. As y'all prepare your proposals, remember that they should be part of strategic long-range plans, and should include some matching funds, whether from within your membership or from other outside sources. If you don't have a long-range plan, we do want you to have one and would certainly help support that process. Meanwhile, please keep EC Chair James Ron Suiter in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from a bicycling accident.

Finally, **March 27** will be the inaugural presentation of the **NTAUUS Recognition Awards**, as we honor service and dedication by ministers, lay staff members, and our volunteers. Information and nomination forms for the **Raible, Clark, and Robinson Awards** are available at the NTAUUS website under **Activities**; please make plans to attend, and get your nominations in by January 30. Also at this event, we will be announcing the grant recipients, and there might be entertainment and/or speechifying.

It has become obvious that NTAUUS also needs to develop a long-range plan, as developing and implementing strategies is nearly impossible without having specific goals and objectives. To that end, David Pollard, our VP, is gathering a task force that will be meeting this spring with all our congregations to listen to the myriad of visions for NTAUUS. Your input will be most welcome.

It is also clear that the NTAUUS board is much too large, making for an unwieldy decision-making process along with high turnover. To remedy that, we decided, after much discussion at the October meeting, to reduce the number of members. Effective next summer, each congregation will have one representative, with a second at five hundred members and a third at a thousand.

After meeting with the folks in the San Diego cluster, I am more aware of how unique NTAUUS is, one the most active and organized clusters in the UUA. We have great potential, and in the long-range planning process can develop a shared vision that we can then make happen for North Texas.

*Daniel Polk* with *David Pollard* *Anne Smith* *Patsy Roe*  
President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer



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Unitarian Universalist Societies