



UUGAC
Unitarian
Universalist
Global AIDS
Coalition

Unitarian Universalists united to journey with those impacted by HIV/AIDS. We travel as advocates and educators. We look for partnership. We move with compassion and respect in a multicultural world.

This newsletter is our main communications tool in our effort to reach out to UU's and encourage them to join our efforts to address global AIDS issues. We ask that everyone receiving it help us by sharing it with their congregation and youth group. This is a simple but effective way to be involved in making a difference, so please help us get out the word! Check out our website www.uuglobalaids.org

In This Issue.....

- UU Global AIDS Coalition Leadership Change.....2
- Global AIDS in 2010: UU's Can Make A Difference!.....2-3
- UA General Assembly.....4
- In Africa, a Step Backward on Human Rights.....5
- Witness - Dennis Reynolds.....6-7
- Red Ribbon Congregation Program.....8
- Red Ribbon Congregation Reports
 - All Souls Unitarian Universalists of Kansas City, MO.....8-9
 - Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, Carbondale,IL.....9
 - First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR.....10-11
- Additional Information About the UU Global AIDS Coalition.....12
- UUGAC Leadership.....13
- Getting Involved with UUGAC.....13

UU Global AIDS Coalition Leadership Changes

Acting chair until fall 2010: Ann Pickar, First Unitarian, Portland, OR.

Chair Designate fall 2010: Terry Cushman, All Souls, Kansas City, MO.

Carla Feldhammer of the Carbondale, IL Fellowship took over the role of chair in fall, 2009, and nobly attempted to combine leading our nationwide coalition and at the same time maintain leadership of the very successful Carbondale program in Zambia. It became evident that this was too much for one person, and she reluctantly resigned her UUGAC position in January.

At that point Ann Pickar stepped back into the UUGAC chair position as acting chair, and set about engaging the steering committee in planning our future. There was unanimous support from the steering committee to continue our current organizational structure, and key volunteers agreed to maintain their current roles. Most importantly, Terry Cushman of All Souls, Kansas City, MO, volunteered to take on the chair position once he ended his term as board chair in his own congregation, and Ann agreed to continue as Acting Chair until then, and to coordinate our booth as part of the International Organization area in the Exhibit Hall at GA.

In addition to these leadership changes we are delighted to welcome Cameryn Flynn as at large member of our steering committee. Cameryn was introduced to us by co-founder of UUGAC Madeleine Lefebvre. She has a rich background in administrative work with non profits and a strong interest in global AIDS. A recent transfer to Seattle she has not yet chosen a home congregation, but she will be helping us at our booth in the International area at GA, and we hope many of our readers will have an opportunity to meet her then.

While it has been a difficult year for UUGAC, we have emerged stronger and ready to expand our support for UU congregations working to support those impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Global AIDS in 2010: UU's Can Make A Difference!

The UU Global AIDS Coalition was founded seven years ago in response to the devastation caused by the global AIDS pandemic. The explosive growth in numbers, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the millions of deaths were especially troubling. Unlike here in the United States, access to treatment was impossible for people living on \$1 to \$2 per day who had no way to pay for drugs costing thousands of dollars per year. African countries such as Botswana and Swaziland were reporting 40% of their adult population was HIV positive.

The hope was that UUGAC would increase awareness of the global impact among UU congregations and create opportunities for individuals to get involved whether in on the ground projects or in political advocacy.

Since we were founded there have been dramatic developments. A recent article in the New York Times ("At Front Lines, AIDS War is Falling Apart" 5/10/10) describes the last decade as a "golden window for treatment". The annual cost of drugs fell to \$100 per year and "the world was willing to pay". US efforts are mainly focused on PEPFAR, The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which came into being in 2004. The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria coordinates funding from developed countries to address all three diseases. Major individual efforts include the work of Bill Gates and Ex President Clinton. As a result, there have been huge increases in the numbers being treated. In Uganda for example 10,000 were being treated at the beginning of the decade, and now there are 200,000. But along with the success stories there is growing realization of the complexity of stemming the pandemic:

- The pandemic has reached a plateau but at a very high level. Deaths have decreased to 2 million per year instead of 3 million per year. 31.3 million people world wide are living with HIV/AIDS and that number will continue to increase as more access treatment. And sadly new infections continue to increase reminding us that prevention must be addressed at the same time as treatment. 2.7 million

people were newly infected in 2008, including 0.43 million children.

- There is increasing recognition that HIV/AIDS cannot be addressed in isolation. TB co-infection is a growing concern, especially as drug resistant strains of TB spread. Treatment of HIV/AIDS cannot come at the expense of less costly interventions that treat the even larger numbers living with malaria.

- Especially in Sub Saharan Africa the impact on women and girls is devastating. Females are 60% of those living with HIV in Sub Saharan Africa, and the relative impact on girls and young women is dramatically worse. The role of violence is increasingly recognized.

- The impact on children is increasingly of concern. As more people access treatment, early projections for the number of AIDS orphans have been lowered, but already there are estimated to be 15 million children worldwide orphaned by AIDS. In some countries 20% of the children under 17 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Although relatively smaller numbers of children live with HIV/AIDS than adults, much of the reason is that most infected children do not live beyond their second birthday. Prevention of mother to child transmission is a key priority. At the same time the difficulty of treating children is increasingly recognized.

More recently there has been a collapse in donor support set off by the global recession and also by a growing sense that more lives could be saved by fighting other cheaper diseases. So at the same time as numbers infected with HIV continue to grow, the Obama Administration and others are increasingly turning their focus to mother- child health and treatment of malaria and TB. Prevention has lost steam. And science has not produced a magic bullet - no cure, no vaccine. Uganda, the first major success story where the infection rate dropped from 18% to 6% of the adult population, is seeing infection rates creep back up.

So much remains to be done!

But we don't need to do it alone. Decide where your passion lies. Is it working to help people impacted by AIDS in your local community? Is it in supporting the work of organizations making a difference on the ground?

Or is it in getting involved in advocacy efforts to ensure the US maintains financial support or passes legislation which addresses the needs of women and girls? We especially hope that UU's will get involved in advocacy efforts. Watch for alerts in our newsletter or on our website. If you are already involved, share issues and we will help get out the word. If you are not already involved check out one of the following organizations:

- * Global AIDS Alliance (www.globalaidsalliance.org). They spearhead the Campaign to End Pediatric AIDS (CEPA) and support for the International Violence against Women Act.

- * RESULTS (www.results.org): They advocate for support for the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, for education for girls and for micro credit.

- * Jubilee USA (www.jubileeusa.org): advocacy for the Jubilee Act and for action to reduce the impact of debt in underdeveloped countries.

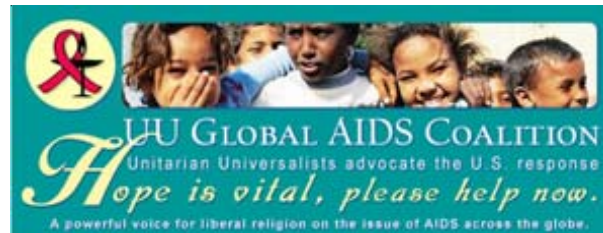
Many of them have local chapters, or start your own.

As UU's we can make a huge difference!

UUA General Assembly



Join us! Friday, June 25, Noon until 2:00PM . Visit UUGAC at the UU International Pavilion Booth in the Exhibit Hall. Learn about the work of our Red Ribbon Congregations and how you can help us on our journey and enjoy the music of *Emma's Revolution!!*



In Africa, a Step Backward on Human Rights

by Desmond Tutu

Hate has no place in the house of God.

No one should be excluded from our love, our compassion or our concern because of race or gender, faith or ethnicity — or because of their sexual orientation. Nor should anyone be excluded from health care on any of these grounds. In my country of South Africa, we struggled for years against the evil system of apartheid that divided human beings, children of the same God, by racial classification and then denied them fundamental human rights. We knew this was wrong. Thankfully, the world supported us in our struggle for freedom and dignity.

It is time to stand up against another wrong.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are part of so many families. They are part of the human family. They are part of God's family. And of course they are part of the African family. But a wave of hate is spreading across my beloved continent. People are again being denied their fundamental rights and freedoms. Men have been falsely charged and imprisoned in Senegal, and health services for these men and their community have suffered. In Malawi, men have been jailed and humiliated for expressing their partnerships. Just this month, mobs in Mtwapa Township, Kenya, attacked men they suspected of being gay. Kenyan religious leaders, I am ashamed to say, threatened an HIV clinic there for providing counseling services to all members of that community, because the clerics wanted gay men excluded. Uganda's Parliament is debating legislation that would make homosexuality punishable by life imprisonment, and more discriminatory legislation has been debated in Rwanda and Burundi. These are terrible backward steps for human rights in Africa.

Our lesbian and gay brothers and sisters across Africa are living in fear.

And they are living in hiding — away from care, away from the protection the state should offer to every citizen, and away from health care in the AIDS era, when all of us, especially Africans, need access to essential HIV services. That this pandering to intolerance is being done by politicians looking for scapegoats for their failures is not surprising. But it is a great wrong. An even larger offense is that it is being done in the name of God. Show me where Christ said “Love thy fellow man, except for the gay ones.” Gay people, too, are made in my God’s image. I would never worship a homophobic God.

“But they are sinners,” I can hear the preachers and politicians say. “They are choosing a life of sin for which they must be punished.” My scientist and medical friends have shared with me a reality that so many gay people have confirmed, I now know it in my heart to be true. No one chooses to be gay. Sexual orientation, like skin color, is another feature of our diversity as a human family. Isn’t it amazing that we are all made in God’s image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people? Does God love his dark- or his light-skinned children less? The brave more than the timid? And do any of us know the mind of God so well that we can decide for him who is included, and who is excluded, from the circle of his love?

The wave of hate that is underway must stop. Politicians who profit from exploiting this hate, from fanning it, must not be tempted by this easy way to profit from fear and misunderstanding. And my fellow clerics, of all faiths, must stand up for the principles of universal dignity and fellowship. Exclusion is never the way forward on our shared paths to freedom and justice.

Desmond Tutu Op Ed / Washington Post / Africa and Gay and Lesbian Rights / March 12, 2010. He is archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.



UUGAC
Unitarian
Universalist
Global AIDS
Coalition

Witness - Dennis Reynolds

The following is an excerpt from a World Aids Day Service, delivered at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Port Townsend, WA. [The full text is available at QUUF.org](http://QUUF.org). Dennis is a member of the UUGAC coordinating Council. He is working to complete his academic and denominational preparation for minister during 2010-2011. He is active in raising funds for AIDS relief through the organization Thembanathi (Zulu for "Hope With Us") which was profiled in an early UUGAC Newsletter. He and his wife Suzanne currently live in the greater Seattle Metro area. He would welcome opportunities to share this message in other congregations.



I see in my minds eye South African children. They look out at me with sad eyes and sometimes with smiles. Some are the children whom my daughter Lindsey met and photographed on her first trip to South Africa in 2004. I know them from their photos and her telling of their story. There's 12 year old Fasimway who along with his grandmother had come to Holy Cross Hospice in order for her to receive services, as she was dying from AIDS. She had contracted the disease while caring for her daughter, who died shortly after giving birth to twin sons. Famisway told his grandmother good-bye and began the long

walk home with his two 5 month old twin baby brothers, one on each hip.

There's Nolo the young preschooler, who stole Lindsey's heart. She spent many evening hours with Lindsey during an extended stay at Holy Cross She was there with her mother, a patient at the hospice, and she stayed for weeks after her mothers death, as they sought friends or family who could care for her. In time an aunt who lived to the north agreed to take her in.

And then there's "the photo". It's a picture of a child nestled in Lindsey's arms. This baby is not smiling but is sickly, with bloodshot eyes, and a runny nose. She has been diagnosed with AIDS. No one knows her name. You see, she was found in a township hovel lying between two corpses.

When I saw that photo of that poor innocent child my heart leapt and in that moment I realized that the child in my daughter's arms and I are undeniably connected. In an instant a theoretical theological notion about human connection became an undeniable reality.

We are connected that baby and I. We are all connected.

There is a second photo of Lindsey and that child, whom orphanage staff named Elizabeth. It was taken six weeks later. In that photo the child Lindsey held was happy and smiling and healthy. A generous European donor had committed to provide the anti-retro-viral medications that made her survival a possibility.

Miracles are possible

I had the opportunity, last spring, to travel to South Africa. While there I had the opportunity to spend time at Holy Cross Hospice, a multifaceted service program, created and directed by an amazing Zulu woman, named Sister Priscilla Dlamini.

I got to meet and play with the children at the preschool there. The preschool was established to assure that the preschoolers older brothers and sister, who are often the heads of their households, would be able to attend school, rather than needing to stay home and care for their younger siblings.



On my first visit I had the opportunity to just play. Marching around the play yard we sang, "Oh I ain't got a barrel of money... La la la la la"

We laughed as we sang.

The children screamed with joy as I chased them around pretending to be, in turn; a lion, an elephant, and an ape. Lindsey followed along giving Zulu translations for the animals I portrayed and urging them to run, run, run.

They, and the teachers, did not quite know what to make of this wild exuberant white man. They did discover that he was a lot of fun and that my enthusiasm for children is boundless.

Later in the afternoon we settled down. I read stories in English while they looked at the pictures and tried to garner meaning from my tone and vocal tempo. A group of young girls treated us to an impromptu concert of what Lindsey informed me were Zulu gospel songs.

Each of them wanted a turn to touch my hairy arms and caress the loose skin on my neck and stroke my thin soft hair.

I urged them to slap me five and to greet me with a fist pound.

Yea! All right!

Yea! All right!

Red Ribbon Congregation Program

The following congregations have been recognized as Red Ribbon Congregations for their continuing leadership in addressing global AIDS issues. We encourage others to contact them direct for information and advice.

- All Souls Kansas City, Kansas City, MO. Contact Terry Cushman, tcushman@yahoo.com
- Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, Carbondale ILL. Contact Carla Feldhammer, hospice88@aol.com
- First Parish Lexington, MA. Contact Al Jacobson, aljacobson@comcast.net
- First Unitarian Portland, OR. Contact Patricia O'Shea, poppishea@hotmail.com
or Kirsten Carpentier, kirstencarpentier@hotmail.com
- First Unitarian Society in Newton, MA. Contact Peter Smith, psmith@igc.org
- Juneau UU Fellowship, AK. Contact Madeleine Lefebvre, toisondor@gci.net
- Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, Louisville, KY. Contact Arlene4 Tuttle, arlt32@gmail.com
- Vancouver UU Church, Vancouver, WA. Contact Lyle Smith, lbs@aol.com
- Unitarian Universalists of Cumberland Valley, PA. Contact Priscilla Laws, lawsp@dickinson.edu

TO BECOME A RED RIBBON CONGREGATION: Go to the Red Ribbon Congregation page on our web site, www.uuglobalaids.org, or for more information contact Lyle Smith at lbs@aol.com or contact any of the congregation contacts listed above.

Red Ribbon Congregation Reports

All Souls Unitarian Universalists of Kansas City

Greetings from Kansas City! I can't express how honored and excited I am to have received the support and encouragement from Ann Pickar and Carla Feldhammer to expand my participation in the UUGAC as Chair Designate. After completing 3 years of service to, and serving the last year as President of All Souls' Board of Trustees, I am looking forward to assisting the UUGAC to move forward in growth and new opportunities. HIV/AIDS activism is an important part of my life and it's something I brought with me to All Souls when I joined 6 years ago and continues to be my passion.



I have been a volunteer HIV Testing Counselor at the [Kansas City Free Health Clinic](#) for 11 years and since 2005 have contracted with the Johnson County (KS) Department of Health and the [Healthy Living Projects](#) in that same capacity. Joining All Souls UU enabled me to expand my passion to a "global" level and with the support of the leadership and membership we were honored to become a Red Ribbon Congregation in 2008.

All Souls became the first congregation in Kansas City to host what has become an annual World AIDS Day Interfaith service on World AIDS Day. We partnered with the Kansas City AIDS Memorial Project where local victims of HIV/AIDS are honored and remembered by their families and friends, and now our World AIDS Day service has become their venue. On World AIDS Day in December of 2009, the Kansas City Free Health Clinic provided free walk-in rapid HIV testing all afternoon, another first for All Souls.

"Team All Souls" continually participates in the local AIDS Service Foundation's AIDS Walk, AIDS Bike Challenge, and other year-round events which raise money for local AIDS Service Providers. I am very proud to announce our most recent project is participating in Marlene

Anderson's *The Imani Project*. All Souls' Special Offering for October 2009 was collected to sponsor Morris Charo and his family whose father died of an AIDS related illness in 2002.

As the UUGAC moves forward, now with 9 Red Ribbon Congregations, let's reach out and take our message and our passion to even more UU congregations. I know you have all heard many new UU members exclaim "I've always been a Unitarian Universalist, but just didn't know it!". I think that is true of the many congregations that are active in their HIV/AIDS communities, and I wager "They are Red Ribbon Congregations and don't even know it!". With little effort, we can seek those congregations out and encourage them to receive acknowledgment of their efforts by becoming Red Ribbon Congregations and spread our message even further. Have a great year and I hope to meet many of you at General Assembly.

In Fellowship,
Terry Cushman
Chair, Red Ribbon Committee
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Kansas City, MO
tcushman@yahoo.com

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, Carbondale, IL

Emma's Revolution in Carbondale for Concert/Silent Auction Fundraiser
February 2010 By Carla Feldhamer

Fundraising for Partnership between The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship and Ranchhod AIDS hospice and Orphan Care Program in Kabwe, Zambia. YES!! Fundraising can be FUN...they should call it Funraising. AFRICAN AIDS FUNDRAISER A GRAND SUCCESS Emma's Revolution (Pat Humphries and Sandy O.) came to CUF and left with a new set of fans!! Their music filled the room with laughter, commitment to justice, compassion, and love. Their personalities delighted us....they attended supper club at one of the member's home, hiked the hills of Southern Illinois, and lived with another fellowship member....our hostess with the mostest. She even took them to a Mardi Gras Party after the concert. They supported and admired our partnership with Ranchhod AIDS hospice and Orphan Care in Kabwe, Zambia and adopted one of the orphans through the school fees program while they were here. The Silent Auction was our most successful ever. Over \$6000.00 was sent to Zambia. Bidding wars were ongoing. Dr. Jeff Kellogg is now the "proud owner" of a Very Expensive Zambian Rattle that he plans to bring to the next men's retreat. Rob Corricini is thrilled with his Warthog but the happiest person there was Elena Sasso, our minister's daughter, who now has a beaded, EXPENSIVE, blue hippo hanging in her room. THE WHOLE EVENING AMAZING!!!! "Dancing on the edge of folk and pop there's a revolution: Emma's revolution. "Bold, profound, moving, hilarious and transformative." The sound of passion in "deftly-turned phrases," songs imbued with hope, warmth and the "power and drive" to turn tears into laughter, cynicism into action. emma's revolution is the duo of award-winning, activist musicians, Pat Humphries & Sandy O, who write songs that become traditions. Their song, "If I Give Your Name" won Grand Prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and their music has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered and Pacifica's Democracy Now! "Peace, Salaam, Shalom" is sung around the world and has been called the "anthem of the anti-war movement." "Keep On Moving Forward" opened the NGO Forum at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, becoming the unofficial theme of the Conference." For information on bringing "emma's revolution" to your town go to their website <http://www.emmasrevolution.com> or visit them in the exhibit hall at General Assembly.

First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR

UUGAC 2009-2010

by Kirsten Carpentier & Patricia O'Shea, Co-Chairs



Ann Pickar, the inspirational co-founder of UUGAC at First Church in 2003, stepped down from her role as Chair to focus of her energy on the Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition (PAGAC), a network of over 200 groups working on AIDS issues. The new co-chairs of UUGAC, Kirsten Carpentier and Patricia O'Shea stepped up to maintain a strong and vital organization and presence within the many offerings of Social Justice here in Portland.

Our year has had a common rhythm with the past, but also some new twists. So first let us introduce ourselves. As Co-Chairs, Patricia and Kirsten brought different skills to the mission. Kirsten Carpentier is a medical social worker with a public health background and was one of the original members of Portland's UUGAC in 2004. She and Ann traveled to Kenya

together in 2005 to do several AIDS-related service projects. Kirsten returned to Kenya the next two summers to work with an AIDS orphanage. Patricia O'Shea brings a background in medicine, education and advocacy to the work. She studies global health issues, and actively works with RESULTS, Portland Chapter, to keep the needs of the world's poorest and most vulnerable in front of our legislators. She has fostered funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, protecting the International Affairs budget and currently is pushing for a Global Fund for Education. She also wrote an article on HIV and TB in Haiti for the Front Steps, the church newsletter. She sponsors a 10 year old orphan in the Imani Project, a project you know well from prior UUGAC newsletters.

This year we've kept a good visibility within our large congregation by our frequent informational tabling in the fellowship hall twice a month, an African Luncheon in honor of World AIDS Day on November 22, and then later by offering a class called "Impacting the HIV/AIDS Pandemic" in early 2010. We also provided opportunities throughout the year for three NGOs working on AIDS issues to sell art and jewelry to support their projects. We have two church members who founded separate organizations working with AIDS-affected communities: Marlene Anderson of the Imani Project in Kenya and Dick Adams of the Zimbabwe Artists Project. It's been vital to provide exposure and support for them in this difficult economic climate. We also supported jewelry sales for Thembanathi, an AIDS organization working in South Africa, which was sponsored by Helen Towle of the UU Church in Eugene, Oregon.

Programming throughout this past year was varied and ambitious. Our African Luncheon in November was a major highlight. The keynote presentation was given by Barry Childs, founder of Africa Bridge, on their innovative micro-finance and community work in rural Tanzania as a way to improve the lives of AIDS impacted orphans. The focus of Africa Bridge is always on what the community wants, what protects the AIDS-impacted children and what is sustainable. We fused the serious with the creative by having fabulous musical accompaniment by two



African musicians in native dress: drummer, Chata Addy, of the renowned Ghanian Addy family and Lutomia Kuto, a fine singer from Kenya. People enjoyed the music and we doubled our attendance from the past. During this feast we honored a very surprised Ann Pickar for her years of powerful service in UUGAC by showering her with African gifts and songs. We provided a five-week class through the church's Adult Education program entitled Impacting the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Making a Difference modeled on one offered in 2003. Our ten speakers were excellent and the topics included inspirational stories of AIDS activists in Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya, advocacy tools and strategies from Jubilee and RESULTS, women's empowerment through innovative use of media (World Pulse Magazine), and support of orphans. We also learned from Ann Pickar about the mission of PAGAC. Though it was time-consuming to coordinate all of the speakers and recruit participants for each class, we felt strongly that providing a way for the people to deepen their understanding of the complexity of AIDS was very important to engagement. Classes were offered on Sunday afternoons as a series but people could choose to come to each class individually, a needed flexibility. Some of the participants came from outside our congregation and we received very positive feedback about the series and our speakers. At the final class we had a potluck and discussion of next steps for engagement. We recruited several new volunteers and provided renewed visibility and energy for UUGAC, and we also built vital links to a number of other local groups who share our interests. In May we participated with the PAGAC's event for World's Orphans' Day by providing a table of exhibits, and we found ourselves among so many friends, several made from our class and advocacy work.



Since talking about the AIDS pandemic sometimes feels so distant and so overwhelming to people, we hope to provide a new focus with projects with give tangible results. In our recent UUGAC meetings, we have been discussing a focus on a couple of specific, measurable, and affordable projects that support AIDS-impacted communities. Imani and Zimbabwe Artist Project Directors have been asked to get recommendations from their African communities. It is our hope that putting a more human face on this complex pandemic may produce greater empowerment and involvement from our congregation.

What is our future at UUGAC at First Church? In June 2010 Kirsten will be stepping down from her role as Co-Chair of UUGAC and Patricia will continue as the Chair. We hope our current and future volunteer base will step up to a greater role. Time will tell if we can foster the human and financial energy to realize the goal of a couple of specific projects. Do come by and see our poster at the UUGAC booth at General Assembly where Ann Pickar will be representing our congregation. We are welcoming a new minister, Rev. Bill Sinkford, and we are thrilled with his commitment to human rights and his knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues. To quote his words in 2008:

"My prayer on World AIDS Day is that we will summon the moral courage to honestly confront the spread of HIV/AIDS. My prayer is that we will open our minds and our hearts. My prayer is that our intelligence, our compassion, and our tolerance will allow us to face the truth. Because only truth—not ideology, not wishful thinking—only truth will help us end the HIV/AIDS pandemic. " ~Rev. William G. Sinkford~

Additional Information About The UU Global AIDS Coalition

What is the UU Global AIDS Coalition and how did we come about?

What later became the UU Global AIDS Coalition was originally founded in 2002 as a Social Justice Action Group at First Unitarian in Portland, OR. in response to a powerful address given by Stephen Lewis, then UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, at the Unitarian General Assembly that year. He faulted those of us in the West for sitting by while the devastation of the AIDS pandemic is causing millions of deaths every year. Many of these deaths could be prevented if medical care easily available in western countries was available elsewhere in the world.

We now have a national steering committee and have made contacts in around 160 congregations throughout the U.S., also in Canada, Mexico and Europe, and we are especially delighted to be in contact with UU's in Kenya and Uganda and to be working with them to support their work in caring for AIDS orphans. We are a grassroots, all volunteer organization.

- Our vision is to support the work of UU congregations by sharing information and learning from each other. Our Red Ribbon Congregation program recognizes congregations that are making a substantial effort to address global AIDS issues and can serve as a model for other congregations. Congregations or individuals who are considering getting involved and wondering how to start are encouraged to contact any of the Red Ribbon Congregations listed later in this newsletter. While they are all heavily involved in their own programs, they have a variety of in depth experience in starting and sustaining projects to support communities impacted by HIV/AIDS and are happy to share what they have learned. And we hope other congregations who are already actively engaged will apply to become a Red Ribbon congregation- that would be wonderful!

- Funding: We are a totally volunteer organization composed of individuals from UU congregations throughout the United States. Thanks to our new fiscal agent, Carbondale UU Fellowship, we can now accept donations, but individual congregations do their own fund-raising.

- We work by partnering with others. We have worked hard to collaborate with other UUA agencies so that we include their perspective on global AIDS issues and reach the widest possible audience. We are especially proud that we are able to partner with the UUA Advocacy Office and the UU United Nations Office to engage UU's at all levels in speaking out on the issues and in participating in global AIDS events.

- We work to engage UU's in political advocacy. We are especially excited by the growing role of the denomination in political advocacy on global AIDS issues, and use our network of local contacts to support the work of the UUA Advocacy Office.

- We work to develop culturally respectful ways to share the journey with those impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS.

- We are always looking for leaders who are interested in working with youth. Please contact Carla Feldhammer at hospice88@aol.com if you are interested in getting involved in this important part of our work.

UUGAC Leadership

Some Leadership positions are currently vacant. Please contact anyone listed below to see how you may be able to share you time and talents with the UUGAC!

Acting Chair Jan -June 2010:Ann Pickar, First Unitarian, Portland, OR.

Chair Designate:Terry Cushman, All Souls, Kansas City, MO

Secretary :Madeleine Lefebvre, Juneau Alaska Fellowship

Treasurer:Debbie White, Carbondale ILL UU fellowship

Newsletter Editor:Terry Cushman, All Souls, Kansas City

Red Ribbon Congregation Program:Lyle Smith, Vancouver UU Church, Vancouver, WA.

Advocacy Coordinator: vacant

UU-UNO liaison/ Resource Developer:Bruce Knotts/Holly Sarkissian, UU-United Nations Office. (ex-officio)

At large:Dennis Reynolds, Unitarian Universalist Church, Eugene, OR

At large:Cameryn Flynn, unattached

Youth/Youth Advisor Representatives: vacant

Fiscal Agent:Carbondale, ILL UU Fellowship

Web Site: Greg Zupan, West Hills Unitarian Fellowship, Portland, OR (www.uuglobalaids.org)

Getting Involved with UUGAC

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE: www.uuglobalaids.org

We encourage both individuals and congregations to join our coalition. This is not a membership organization and any individual can sign up to receive the newsletter. There is no charge. We are especially looking for people who will be the contact for their congregation. Besides letting us know that you are out there, we hope that congregational contacts will:

- Distribute the newsletter and brochures and perhaps maintain a local sign up list
- Share news of what is happening in your congregation and community

TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER OR TO BECOME A CONGREGATIONAL CONTACT, e-mail UUGACNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM The newsletter comes out three times a year, usually in January, April and September. Contributions and suggestions very much welcome!

Is your congregation a
RED RIBBON CONGREGATION?

Unite with us in the journey:

All Souls Kansas City, Kansas City, MO
Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, Carbondale IL
First Parish Lexington, MA
First Unitarian Portland, OR
First Unitarian Society in Newton, MA
Juneau UU Fellowship, AK
Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, Louisville, KY
Vancouver UU Church, Vancouver, WA
Unitarian Universalists of Cumberland Valley, PA



UUGAC
Unitarian
Universalist
Global AIDS
Coalition

*please
affix
correct
postage*