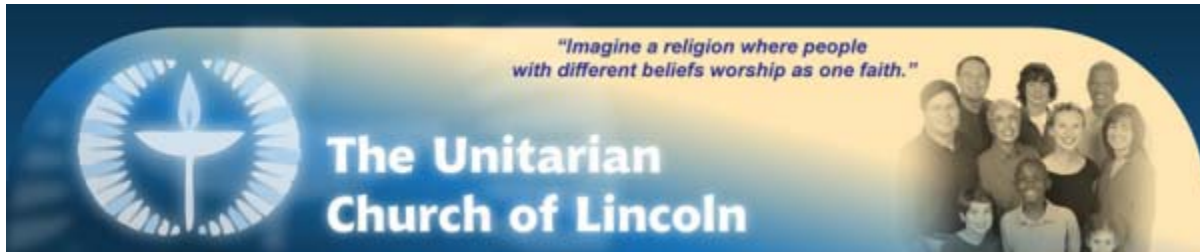


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The Lincoln Unitarian • September 2010

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a friend, member or visitor of the Lincoln Unitarian Church.

A Month of Sundays

10:00 am in the Auditorium

September 5 - "Giants Under Our Feet" -- Founders' Sunday

Our passage into September brings us past the 140th anniversary of our Church's founding day (September 1, 1870). Seems like a good time again to check the footings upon which we stand . . . and to recall to our hearts the spirits which gave them their depth.

Speaker: Fritz Hudson

Ceremony: Trustee Installation

Music: Daniel Martinez, guitar

September 12 - "To Set Our Sail"

In stormy seas, to get where we want to go we need two things:

1. a sure sense of which way the wind is blowing; and
2. a sail, set at just the right angle between wind and desired destination to pull us surely there.

In these times, how do we cut, sew and set our sail?

Speaker: Fritz Hudson

Ceremony: Religious Growth & Learning Leader Installation & Classroom Blessing

Music: Genevieve Randall, flute

September 19 - "Which Side Are We On?"

"Once to every soul and nation comes the moment to decide . . ." are the stirring opening words of a hymn long and lustily sung among us (#119). What contests in our world today call us to choose our side? And what should guide our choice?

Speaker: Fritz Hudson

Music: Unitarian Choir

Post Service: Shared Ministry Fair

September 25 - "A Presence, A Witness"

For many years members of our church have arisen early in all conditions to escort patients into the care of the medical services staff at Planned Parenthood's South Street Clinic. What calls us to be present in this way? How is this service a witness to our values?

Speakers: Susan Emanuel, David Asper, Earl Dyer, Lois Hansen, D Moritz

Music: Karen Sandene, bassoon

MEMBERS & FRIENDS:

WE NEED YOUR VOICE TO RE-SET OUR MISSION:

Friday evening, September 17 or Saturday morning, September 18. Details on Page 4

Parson to Person



The air freshens (finally!) and I feel the surge to move forward. Yet I don't yet want to lose touch with these good days just passed. Connecting past to future is fitting work for the passage from summer to autumn. It will mark much of our efforts together this coming month.

Our faith's past, in Nebraska, can be dated to the founding of the First Unitarian Church of Omaha, in 1869, and to our own church's founding, as the First Universalist Church of Lincoln, in 1870. A few churches sprouted in other parts of our state in earlier years, but all soon withered and died. (A Unitarian church building still stands in Ord NE, but it passed long ago into private use.) It took over a century, 'till 1976, for us to give birth to a new generation congregation – Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. Younger siblings have now come along too: the UU Fellowship of Kearney in 1986 and Prairie Vista UU Church in Scottsbluff just in the last decade. We can both hope and plan for more to be on their way.

Right now, though, seems a very good time to recognize and celebrate the full maturity of that first born child to our east – Second Unitarian. It serves the western region of the Omaha metropolitan area, sited at 3012 South 119th Street (just south of Center Road). Its youth was partnered somewhat fitfully with trained clergy, but it's now marking 10 years of continuous full-time shared ministry by preparing to install the Reverend Scott McNeill into its service. Scott's a recent graduate of the U.U. seminary of Chicago, Meadville-Lombard Theological School. We met Scott here in Lincoln last March when he led our Sunday service, as a candidate for Second's pulpit.

And now we're blessed to welcome two religious professionals into our Lincoln U.U. shared ministry who have both been nurtured into their own maturity by Second Unitarian's spirit.

We presented Chelsea Maitland as our candidate for Religious Growth Director to you last Saturday. On the strength of your enthusiastic response, we entered into our covenant for her service to begin on September 1, with her first Sunday among us on September 12. Chelsea introduces herself to you on page 3 of this newsletter. Our church can claim to have helped raise Chelsea to adulthood, but it was Second Unitarian, this past year, who first recognized and affirmed her as a U.U. Religious Education Director.

Now I present to you Laura Shennum who will partner with us as Student Minister. A year ago, Meadville-Lombard Theological School asked me to become Teaching Pastor for Laura as she entered into ministerial training there. I mentored her in her first training placement, at In Common Community Development, an interfaith community-building agency serving mid-town Omaha. This past summer she progressed through intensive clinical pastoral training through the chaplaincy service of the Nebraska Medical Center. Now, as authorized by our Trustees, she will begin a placement among us – 20 hours a week for two years – to pursue a careful progression of experiences directed by the Meadville-Lombard faculty. She will move gradually from observer and analyst of ministry among us into full ministerial leadership among us. If all goes well (and it will!), she will receive her Meadville-Lombard degree and her U.U. Association fellowship in June 2012, to seek her own settlement in another U.U. congregation.

And who can we thank for this gift we are about to receive? Laura began her life in California. She's a graduate of Mills College in Oakland CA, with majors in Anthropology and Sociology. Eleven years ago, when she and husband Don welcomed their first child Siena into their family, they were living in La Vista, Nebraska. They joined Second Unitarian

Church. Conor (now 7) and Bree (4½) came along in their turn. And from 2006 to 2009, Laura served the congregation as Religious Education Director. (She was Chelsea's predecessor). Don is a manager at Union Pacific Railroad Company and a Church Trustee. While Laura is our Student Minister, Second Unitarian will remain their home church.

So . . . Welcome Laura. Come meet her this Sunday, August 29 or September 5.

And . . . Welcome Chelsea. Come greet her on September 12.

And THANK YOU SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA!!! See you in Church?
Fritz

Your Search and oUUs

At all times in our church, there are many among us with hearts in a "faith-testing" mode. You're asking: "Is my 'me' a fit for this 'we'? Can my spirit's search find some true partner's here? Here's a way to find out.

We call it "Your Search & oUUs" – a one session, 90 minute experience. It takes only 5-10 inquirers and two leaders.

- You (the inquirers) each tell us something about your path to our door.
- We (the leaders) tell you something about our U.U. faith's long journey – from primal human spirituality, through western Judeo-Christianity, to multi-cultural liberal religion.

Then,

- We explore together: Is there a source in our living tradition which could provide you some roots?

Is there a principle in our faith which could help you to grow?

Minister Fritz Hudson and Membership Associate Karen Dienstbier will lead our upcoming Your Search sessions:

- Thursday, September 16, 7:15pm to 8:45pm (Childcare can be arranged)
- Sunday, September 19, 11:15am to 1:00pm (including a light lunch)
(Childcare will be provided)

All searchers-not-yet-members are invited to sign up.

Phone or email the church office or stop by our Sunday Newcomer table.

Worship Arts News

Sing With The Choir!

The Unitarian Church Choir is open to all of our members and friends. If you like the challenge of reading music and would enjoy singing in the Sunday services, then simply come to our rehearsals in the church auditorium. We look forward to making music with you!

FALL CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sept. 8, 7 PM rehearsal

Sept. 15, 7 PM rehearsal

Sept. 19, 8:30 AM rehearsal, 10 AM service

Oct. 6, 7 PM rehearsal
 Oct. 13, 7 PM rehearsal
 Oct. 17, 8:30 AM rehearsal, 10 AM service

Youth Choirs?

Yes! We will be having Youth Choirs again this year. We're just waiting to see how the scheduling works out once the new Religious Growth Director is in place. More information will be available in the September weekly emails and the October newsletter!

Capital Campaign Update - Resetting our Mission

Mission Weekend set for Sept. 17/18/19

Please join us Sept. 17 or Sept. 18; Your Input is Crucial

The Mission Weekend—where our congregation develops a new mission statement that will guide our church activities leading up to and following a possible capital campaign—has been set for the weekend of September 17/18/19. Here is the schedule:

- Friday evening, September 17, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.—the first wave of small groups meet at the church to brainstorm vision/mission/goals/activities.
- Saturday morning, September 18, from 9:00 a.m. until noon—the second wave of small groups meet at the church to brainstorm vision/mission/goals/activities.
- Sunday afternoon, September 19, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.—the facilitators of the Friday and Saturday small groups meet to synthesize the output from the small groups and fashion a proposed mission statement.

The proposed mission statement will be voted on by the congregation on October 3. The vote will be a simple yes/no vote, without wordsmithing or amendment. If passed, the new mission statement will guide our strategic planning process, our future growth and development, and the scope of a possible capital campaign.

What happens in the small groups? Groups of 8-12 people each will focus on personal and collective visions of our future church and then develop, with the help of facilitators from the congregation, rough drafts of mission statements, goals and activities for our church for the next five years. This experience will be somewhat similar to, but more focused than, the pledge circles of last fall where we developed lists of likes and wants for our church. (NOTE: The output from the pledge circles last fall led directly to the formation of a strategic-planning task force and a task force that explored ways to improve our community visibility.)

Everyone is invited to participate. Broad participation is crucial to the success of the vision/mission process. We will have multiple small groups meeting simultaneously and will accommodate any and all who can participate on either Friday evening or Saturday morning. These will be your only opportunities to participate in the process so we hope you will make plans to attend one of the sessions.

Child care will be available; youth are encouraged to participate in the small groups. You can sign up for your choice of Friday evening or Saturday morning by calling the church office and leaving a message or by signing up in person in the Fireplace room after Sunday services.

Religious Growth News

RGL wing cleanup

On Saturday, September 25 from 9 - 1 the RGL committee will be putting the polishing touches on the RGL wing. Come and help if you can!

Classroom Blessing

Every year the children bless the classrooms in order to help us all start off on the right foot! Children are invited to join the RGL committee and our new Religious Growth Director Chelsea Maitland bless the classrooms on Sunday, September 12 at 9:15am.

Christina's Corner

The preschool class will be finishing up our Summer Book Buddies Club on Sept. 5, with Dr. Seuss's Oh, The Things You Can Think! On Sept. 12, we will begin our 2010-2011 RGL program year! Our curricula this year is We Are Many, We Are One. This series of lessons "offers young children the opportunity to learn about their religious community and tradition, as well as freedom to discover and express their uniqueness. The four units in this program encourage children to use their minds, bodies, and emotions to develop their sense of identity and self esteem within the Unitarian Universalist community and their world". I'm looking forward to another exciting year of working with our children, and I encourage parents [& other interested adults!] to join us as classroom volunteers and share in the FUN!

Chelsea Maitland is our new Religious Growth Director

The big news of course is that we have hired a new Religious Growth Director. Here is her statement which appeared in the bulletin on Saturday, August 21 for the RGD Candidate Forum and Interview:

Hello Lincoln UUs!

I am delighted to be your candidate for the position of Religious Growth Director.

As some of you may know, I have had ties to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lincoln for almost twenty years. My UU roots were planted at this church. As a child I began exploring UU identity and was embraced by the community as I participated in worship services and RGL class experiences. As a teenager, I took the lead in facilitating church conferences and creating youth worship services as well as serving as a youth liaison between this church and the Prairie Star District. I am also a graduate of the Coming of Age program which helped solidify my understanding of my own religious beliefs and convictions.

In the years that followed, I stayed connected to this church by intermittently providing childcare and teaching the Preschool class. I also regularly read the church newsletters as I filled my life with University studies and a multitude of jobs within the field of education. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree and teaching certification in Secondary Education with an endorsement in Social Sciences. I am now continuing my studies as I pursue a Masters degree in 'Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education'.

I am fortunate to have worked as the half time Director of Religious Education at Second Unitarian Universalist Church of Omaha this last year. My work there has allowed me to help others explore what gives their lives meaning, as well as enriched my own life as I grow in my career as a Religious Educator. Working with Unitarian Universalists is very rewarding, and I am particularly excited about creating connections between generations. I am interested to hear YOUR thoughts about how we might enhance the richness and depth of your Religious Education program together.

I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to be presented as your candidate for the position of Religious Growth Director. I look forward to our meeting time on Saturday, August 21st, when I can hear from children and adults alike about your dreams for the Religious Education program. I am also anticipating the questions which you may have for me about my hopes and visions for working within this church community. I am hopeful that we might walk together on the path of religious exploration in the years ahead. I believe we have much to

learn from one another, and I am excited by the possibilities.

Chelsea

Our Religious Growth Director Search Team (Mark Weddleton, Education & Membership Coordinator; Trish Lanning, Tonya Haigh, Debbi Barnes-Josiah, Religious Growth & Learning Committee Members; Julie Enersen, Worship Arts Director; Fritz Hudson, Minister) received 22 applications for the position. We conducted preliminary interviews with six applicants and final interviews with two.

We recommended Chelsea because:

- She brings the experience of serving as Religious Education Director of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha this past year. The Rev. Nancy Haley says "she excelled because of "her enthusiasm and creativity."
- She brings the experience of serving on the staff of the Lincoln YMCA Community Learning Center at Elliott School and as Visitor Services Associate at Lincoln Children's Museum.
- She holds a B.S. Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with Nebraska certification to teach secondary school social sciences.
- She is currently pursuing an M.A. at UNL in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education.
- She was a participant in our church's religious growth & learning program from mid-elementary school through high school and is a graduate of our Coming of Age program

Working Together

Standing on the Side of Love

Standing on the Side of Love campaign launches September 12 at 11:30 in the Auditorium. The SSOL campaign is a Unitarian Universalist Association effort to address social justice issues of today. This meeting will introduce people how the campaign is organized and how each person can take part. This meeting is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee (Social Action) of the Lincoln Unitarian Church. Question? D. Moritz, 968-3808, dmoritz2@yahoo.com www.standingonthesideoflove.org

SAVE THE DATE: Interfaith Housing Fall Clean-up

DATE: 9 October, 2010, Saturday Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Place: Ambassador and President apartments across from the capital. in downtown Lincoln (1340 Lincoln Mall)

Most work is outside landscape/clean up. Bring rakes, pruners, shovels, brooms, yard work gloves, muscles. Some inside clean-up, trash removal, floors, windows. Come and join friends from the Unitarian Church, First Plymouth, St. Pauls and other friends to help spruce up the low income housing and make them attractive for tenants and the local community. An invitation from: Rick Goodman and friends in the Social Action Committee (soon to be Social Justice Committee).

Grounds

Notice anything different with the church grounds? Well here are some of the happenings:

- λ All trees were trimmed. The branches from the Redbud tree off the patio were removed. One of the large pines in front of the church was removed. We need to remove at least one pine tree each year!
- λ Mulch (17 yards) was spread in the Memorial Garden.
- λ Lawn is mowed every week bt the "Mowing Posse".
- λ The "weeders for peace" led by Jackie Egan have pulled weeds every Tuesday

- morning since April.
- λ An herb garden, named Jean's garden, was planted on the west side of the building.
 - λ A "Grounds Committee" meeting was held this summer. Next meeting Sept. 12 at 3:30 at the church.

Playing Together

Water Communion Service and All Church Potluck lunch

Please join us for our welcome back to church service Water Communion Service on August 29. The potluck lunch will follow at 11:30. Campus young adult please plan to meet on the patio at 11:15 to help organize the events for the morning and to find a spot for you to enjoy each other during the potluck lunch. Your help would be appreciated in clean up as well. If you are new among us please come as our guest to the potluck lunch after church on August 29. There is no need for you to supply any food this time.

UU Adult Game Night

Saturday, September 11 Game Night Potluck is at 6:30 and games begin about 8:00. Come join friendly UU adults for food, fun and conversation at Brice & Leona Braziel's, 1809 Pinedale Ave. Pinedale is one block north of South Street off of South 84th. Questions? Call 489-0916

2nd Annual Pre-Pride Potluck Picnic a huge success!

Over 35 people attended the 2nd Annual PPPP on July 16, 2010 in Antelope Park! See you next year!

The Chill & Chat Community will meet on Wednesday 9/15/10 at *Toast* (570 Fallbrook Blvd, Ste 105) at 7:00 pm. I do not have to make a reservation, but please let me know if you plan to attend. Have a great month! Tara tarark617@hotmail.com

Learning Together

ANGELS THEATRE COMPANY

The Angels Theatre Company announces its upcoming collaboration with the Sheldon Museum of Art. The Shrewdness of Seduction is a collection of 4 short plays presented in the Sheldon galleries as part of its Seductive Subversion (Women Pop Artists 1958 – 1968) exhibit. The Shrewdness of Seduction performs Tuesday September 7 & Tuesday September 21, 2010, starting at 6:30 PM.

The running time for the performance is approximately 75 minutes. Both performance evenings will be followed by informal discussions and a reception in the Museum rotunda. *Admission is free.*

The 4 short plays are:

Dead Right, by Elaine Jarvik – starring Ian Borden & Sarah Imes – directed by Mary Douglass

A friend's tedious, grammatically incorrect obituary plunges Penny and Bill into a prickly discussion at the breakfast table. How could Bill read the paper when they have their own obituaries to plan? A touching comedy about how we hope to be remembered.

The Islands, by Lincoln playwright Norm Simon – starring Rachele Brown, Kate Honeyman &

James Aitkin – directed by Judy Hart

Elise and Anne-Marie meet in a café in a beach town on the fringes of Europe. Anne-Marie owns a summer house there, Elise is a visitor. The conversation turns to a local legend about children stolen in the town and spirited out to remote islands. Both Anne-Marie and Elise have children. Elise's is missing.

Train to Brooklyn, by Theresa Rebeck – starring Mary Douglass, Pippa White & Lori Martinez-Lessman – directed by Mary Douglass

Three women on their way to a friend's baby shower are stuck on a subway train under the east river. What they have to share may surprise you!

Seven Jewish Children, by Caryl Churchill – starring Judy Hart & Pippa White – directed by Judy Hart

Seven Jewish Children is a controversial short play by British playwright Churchill written in response to the 2008-2009 Israel military strike on Gaza.

UUWF BOOK CLUB

Saturday, Sept 18 * 10:00 am * Gere Library

All women are invited to participate in the UUWF Women's Book Group that meets every three weeks from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Gere Library. Join us for lively discussions of books from widely diverse genres from politics to mysteries, biographies and history, humor and novels. Meet interesting characters in print and in person.

Curious about the One Book, One Lincoln selections? The next meeting will discuss the last finalist, *I am a Man* on Sept 18. Plan ahead! Mark your calendar now for October 9 and 30 and read *Bright-sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America* by Barbara Ehrenreich and *Hunting Eichmann: How a Band of Survivors and a Young Spy Agency Chased Down the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb. Please join us for fun, stimulating discussions! Contact the church office if you would like to be on the group's email list.

UU Meditation Sangha Begins Book Study

Our UU Meditation Sangha continues its regular gatherings on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 1834 Ryons Street ~ one block south of South Street on the northwest corner of 19th and Ryons.

Kicking off the beginning of the church year, on the 9th of September we will begin studying together the book *Finger Pointing Essays: Toward a Unitarian Universalist Spirituality*, by UU Minister Kenneth W. Collier. In seven short essays, Rev. Collier asks the question What could a Unitarian Universalist spiritual practice look like? "He examines the core of Buddhism looking for a model to begin building a UU spiritual practice. Beginning with Buddhism's Three Jewels, he ends by proposing Three Unitarian Universalist Jewels."

If you are interested in ordering this book ~ \$15 ~ and joining our discussion, please contact Don Pinkley at 742-4229 or dapinkley@windstream.net to take advantage of a group order and only one S&H charge.

If you are a first timer or a returning meditator, just come on into the house, leave your shoes in the foyer, and quietly enter the yoga studio through the French doors on your left. As always, we begin promptly with a short meditation at 7:00 p.m., followed by brief check-ins, a reading or talk by the evening's facilitator, discussion, a longer meditation period, and then fellowship time over tea.

If you are considering joining us and have questions, please contact Kipp Lanning at 429-6879 or jklanning@gmail.com, or LauraLee Woodruff at 474-3272 or holybear47@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

All university students are invited to become part of the Unitarian Universalist Campus Group on the UNL campus. Please contact Wesley Morrison-Sloat at wmorris2@huskers.unl.edu for more details.

Milestones, Millstones, Stepping Stones

- λ Barb Kuhn is recovering at home from a fall in which she broke both of her elbows. She would appreciate phone calls from friends 486-1534 or cards may be sent to 2812 Ponca St 68506
- λ Earl Kramer has received care for some minor strokes and is at home recuperating. Cards may be sent to 7145 Shamrock Rd 68506
- λ Our Art Gallery display this month is from budding photographer Chelsea Maitland. Don't miss your opportunity to see her work and add something to your collection!

Bouquets of Thanks

- λ Bouquets of Thanks!! Thank you to all who have helped in our Shared Hospitality during the month of August. You all make a big difference in welcoming our visitors, guests and newcomer. Your efforts are very much appreciated
- λ Thank you to all of those on the Newcomer Committee and particularly chair of the committee Ambyr Henderson who crafted an outstanding presentation on greeting newcomers and visitors for presenting a great Shared Hospitality Workshop on August 14. We had 22 participants. We learned a lot and had fun doing it. Next year please plan to come to this import and energizing workshop.

UUA & PSD News

UUSC, UUA Launch Pakistan Flood Relief Fund

The massive flooding in Pakistan continues to worsen, compelling UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund. Please consider supporting the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund to ensure that women and refugees in Pakistan can access the immediate relief they need. The situation in Pakistan is dire and worsening. Your support can make a big difference.

The floodwaters are overwhelming relief efforts, and the number of affected people is estimated at 17.2 million and climbing — nearly one-fifth of the country's population. The sheer force of the floodwaters is sweeping away everything in its path, having destroyed 1.2 million homes, thousands of roads and bridges, and 8 million acres of standing crops. Vast areas of the country are under water, and huge numbers of people are on the move in search of food, water, and shelter. The damage is extraordinary and recovery will be long and slow for this country of 170 million people, where one in three lives below the poverty line.

The scale of the disaster has caused enormous complications for the global humanitarian response. Areas inaccessible to aid are growing in number, including large expanses in northern Pakistan that have been cut off from aid for weeks. By the beginning of this week, only 1.6 million survivors have received food aid. Just two million survivors have access to clean water. Millions of people have no access to safe drinking water or sanitation, and desperately need food, emergency shelter, and basic health services. The current aid response cannot meet the vast needs of the survivors, of which nearly half are children.

You can call the church office 483-2213 for more information or go to www.uusc.org and click on the tab "Pakistan".

UUSC, UUA Declare Support for Lower Manhattan Mosque

On Monday, August 9, UUSC and the UUA sent a joint letter to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg expressing strong support for the Cordoba Center. Read the full text below and raise your voice for religious tolerance by sending your own letter of support. Then take further action by cultivating understanding in your own community with our Building Bridges Tool Kit.

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As leaders of a religious movement with a significant presence in New York City and nationally, we are writing to express our strong support for the planned mosque and Islamic community center in Lower Manhattan. The unanimous vote of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and your own endorsement reaffirm values of religious tolerance and the promotion of interreligious understanding. We commend you for resisting the shortsighted arguments of the Anti-Defamation League and various political ideologues, such as former House speaker Newt Gingrich and former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin. Leaders of both major political parties have made it abundantly clear that the tragic attacks of Sept. 11 in no way reflect mainstream Islamic values — values that are embodied in the proposed center.

The shortsightedness of the center's critics is especially evident when one considers that, over the long run, the voices of moderate Islam hold the key to defeating extremism. These are the voices that represent the overwhelming majority of those within Islam, including the millions of Muslim American citizens, who disavow and repudiate violence. Accordingly, the mosque and community center near Ground Zero should be welcomed as an important effort by moderate Muslims to reach out to interfaith communities in New York and beyond. To demonize them is at odds with the geopolitical interest of the United States and our cherished — and constitutionally protected — tradition of religious freedom.

Because it is a noncreedal faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism has always been at the forefront of promoting intercultural understanding. This work assumed special significance after the Sept. 11 attacks. Unitarian Universalists have also worked to help defend Muslim Americans against some of the worst consequences of the erosion of civil liberties resulting from post-Sept. 11 security policies. Over the past two years, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has joined with Unitarian Universalist congregations to conduct a series of workshops with Muslims in major U.S. cities in efforts to further promote interreligious understanding. The Lower Manhattan mosque and community center would represent a major endorsement of interfaith understanding and a symbol of support for the peaceful teachings of Islam.

We look forward to the successful completion of this project and to supporting further your efforts to heal the wounds — physical, emotional, and spiritual — inflicted upon New York and the nation nearly nine years ago.

Sincerely,
Rev. Peter Morales, President, Unitarian Universalist Association
Rev. William F. Schulz, Interim President, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

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