

International Convocation of
Woman Universalist
Women



13 March 2008

Dear Congregational Ministers, Board Presidents and Church Administrators:

On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC), Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUUW) and other sponsoring organizations, we invite your congregation to participate in the **International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women (ICUW)** which will take place in Houston, Texas from Thursday, February 26 to Sunday, March 1, 2009.

It is the first international meeting of U*U women and the first time that UU women have met nationally in fifteen years — the period during which women's roles in the UUA and the world have burgeoned and become increasingly powerful. Many of us took on leadership roles as ministers, congregational spokespersons, and active members in our communities. The time has come to share our stories, our work, our visions and aspirations, and our free faith. The time has come to learn from each other, to bring ideas back into our congregations and organizations, and to build a strong network of partnerships around the world. This is the time to ensure a strong future for our goals and beliefs.

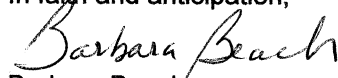
The purpose of the Convocation is to engage U*U women in programs that seek to explore the major challenges that lie before all women. We will showcase innovative model programs that support and encourage women's development and growth. We will also make plans to work with our congregations to create action plans to expand opportunities for women's equality, development, social justice, security and peace in the world. We will celebrate our distinctive religious heritage, learn, and plan for a better future. We will do this together, as individuals and as congregations.


The list of keynote speakers is still growing but already features outstanding UU leaders. Your engagement and help now is critical. Join us in our efforts by encouraging women from your congregation to attend the Convocation, by creating opportunities for international women who could not otherwise attend, by building scholarships with special plate collections or fundraising events, and by connecting with your partner church to encourage their participation.


You can help by raising money to support the Convocation scholarship fund which will leverage financial support and ensure participation of a diverse group of women. Several congregations have come forward to use the plate collection to raise funds for this purpose. You may use the announcement, which can be found online, in your order of service or newsletter. To direct your scholarship funds to a specific individual either from your partner church or from your congregation, please complete the donation form online.

A copy of the Convocation brochure is enclosed. Should you need any further information, please contact Laura Nagel, Administrator at admin@icuw.com or Mary Overton, Executive Director at director@icuw.com.

In faith and anticipation,


Barbara Beach
Advisory Committee Chair
ICUW


Mary Overton
Executive Director
ICUW


Cathy Cordes
Executive Director
UUPCC