



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

President: The Rev. Peter Morales

Moderator: Gini Courter

History: The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), created in 1961 through a consolidation of the Universalist Church of America with the American Unitarian Association, combines two liberal religious traditions. The religion traces its roots back to Europe where in 1569, the Transylvanian king, John Sigismund (1540-1571), issued an edict for religious freedom. The religious philosophy led to the organization of the **Universalists** in this country in 1793, and the **Unitarians**, organized here in 1825.

Beliefs: Founders of Universalism believed in the universal salvation of all humans by God, while founders of Unitarianism believed in the unity of God (as opposed to the Trinity). Unitarian Universalism is a liberal, creedless religion with Judeo-Christian roots. It draws also from Eastern, humanist, and other religious traditions, and encourages its members to seek religious truth out of their own reflection and experience. The denomination teaches tolerance and respect for other religious viewpoints, and affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

Organization and Government: The UUA consists of over 1,040 congregations in the United States and abroad, with over 221,000 members, and is served by more than 1,700 ministers. The UUA is the fastest-growing liberal religion in North America. Each member congregation within the UUA is governed independently. In North America, the Association is made up of 19 Districts (served by district executives who are members of the UUA staff), with each congregation having a district affiliation. The UUA is governed by the elected Board of Trustees, chaired by the elected moderator. The elected president leads the staff and administers the activities of the Association.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Association, please visit our online press room at <http://www.uua.org/pressroom>