



# The USNF Beacon

The Weekly Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence

## Board & Social Justice Edition

May 10, 2022

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Visit us on the web at [www.uunorthampton.org](http://www.uunorthampton.org)

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### Board of Trustees Update

Greetings from your Board!

Discussions about the FY2023 budget, the upcoming USNF Annual Meeting, and the Transition Team's COVID survey dominated the April Board meeting.

The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, May 22nd, immediately following the service at 11 am. Members and friends are warmly invited to join in via Zoom or in-person. Childcare will be provided. Please [RSVP to Jessica](#) to sign up for it.



If you'd like to hear a presentation on USNF's FY23 budget and/or have questions, please join the budget info session in person or on Zoom, May 15 at 11 am immediately after Sunday service. The zoom link is in the Sunday times and here: <https://zoom.us/j/98464297158?pwd=QTJuSzJYTIhaXRPbHZwQ0U0MlIEdz09>

The FY23 budget is posted to the Treasurer's Corner in the member area of our website. If you can't make a session, please contact Dave Nelson, Treasurer, with any questions at [davidolee54@gmail.com](mailto:davidolee54@gmail.com)

Corky Klimczak, Co-Chair of the Transition Team, presented results of a recent survey on how our community is feeling about the pandemic and coming together in person. Respondents favored more caution than less, but not beyond current protocols of mask-wearing and social distancing. While many respondents expressed concern about disconnection growing between those in the Great Hall and those on Zoom, there was also strong support for continuing the Zoom option.

Lest you think all the Board talks about are numbers, meetings, and pandemics, we also had a lively discussion about USNF's stance not just on the war in Ukraine, but on war in general: do we have a collective stance? Should we? If so, do we want to make it more visible? We welcome your thoughts, too!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Simonds  
President of the Board of Trustees

## USNF Annual Meeting Sunday, May 22

The USNF annual meeting will happen right after services on Sunday, May 22, both in person and over zoom. It's an important gathering, in addition to updates/reports on the many programs and services that happened this year, it is also the time when we elect our volunteer officers and approve the proposed budget starting in September.



If you are a member, we need you! Friends, you are also welcome, but will not be able to vote. (Please see the Board update above for a link to a Q&A session on the budget .) If you would like childcare during the meeting, please email [Jessica \(dre@uunorthampton.org\)](mailto:Jessica.dre@uunorthampton.org).

## USNF Planning to Fly the *Progress Pride Flag*



The Coordinating Council would like to celebrate Pride month by updating the Pride Flag which hangs above the outside entry to the Unitarian Society Northampton Florence.

The suggested new flag would more fully represent the Society's commitment to welcoming all. The replacement flag is known as *The*

*Progress Pride Flag*: "a reboot of the LGBTQ Pride Flag with an emphasis on inclusion and progression," (Daniel Quasar, a queer and nonbinary activist who debuted the Progress Pride Flag on [Kickstarter](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/144111111/progress-pride-flag) in 2019).

It has the familiar rainbow stripes but in addition features a horizontal-pointing arrow of five half-sized stripes, and a yellow triangle with a purple circle. These additional stripes represent transgender people (light blue, light pink, and white), as well as People of Color (brown and black), people living with AIDS and those passed, and intersex people (yellow with purple circle).

Please let the Coordinating Council know by June 1 if you have any objection to the Council moving forward with this plan: [council@uunorthampton.org](mailto:council@uunorthampton.org).

## Habitat for Humanity Initiative 'Sweat Equity' Needed!

The Coordinating Council and President's Team are in support of our congregation providing assistance

to USNF member Katherine "Kirby" G. as part of her 'village' to build her new home through Habitat for Humanity. Construction in Northampton begins this month and will continue through the fall. When complete, Kirby and her adult son, both of whom are living with health challenges, will have a home of their own that will also provide a home office for Kirby to continue her professional career and support her family.



**Kirby needs friends to contribute 100 hours of 'sweat equity' in the building process. Can we do it, USNF? Yes we can!**

Persons volunteering must:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Be fully vaccinated
- Attend a one-hour Zoom orientation before working on-site, usually held the 1st Wednesday evening and 3rd Saturday morning of the month.

Individuals, families, friends, and groups are welcome.

Please contact [Kim Henrichon, kahenrichon@gmail.com](mailto:kahenrichon@gmail.com), or [Kirby Grimley zachforestc@gmail.com](mailto:KirbyGrimleyzachforestc@gmail.com), to learn further logistical information.

## Drivers Needed for Rwandan Asylee

The USNF community is helping to support a recent Rwandan asylee and her young daughter. She needs early morning and mid-afternoon drivers to transport them between Belchertown and Northampton for daycare/work.

Please email [minister@uunorthampton.org](mailto:minister@uunorthampton.org) to learn more and volunteer.

## Transition Team Listening Circle

**May 15, 6:30 –7:30 pm**

Thanks to the over 100 of you who filled out the recent Transition Team survey regarding the structure of USNF's hybrid services. About a third of you expressed

interest in meeting to further share your thoughts, feelings and suggestions about how best to move forward. We look forward to meeting with you over Zoom.



**All are welcome to join us for a Zoom Listening Circle  
Sunday, May 15th from 6:30 –7:30 pm.**

No need to preregister, here's the zoom link for the meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/99550637253>

## May Spiritual Discussion Group Awakening: Living Our Values in the World

**Wednesday, May 18, 5-6:15 pm**

Everyone is invited to join the final spiritual



discussion group exploring *Awakening: Living Our Values in the World*. There will be quotes and questions to inspire your reflections.

These groups have taken place since October, 2021, alternating between morning and evening times. Always small (between 4-12 participants), the conversations offer intimate and rich discussions of our beliefs, values, and backgrounds in a confidential and encouraging space. Laurie Loisel and Naomi Klayman are co-facilitators.

The group takes place over zoom:  
[maydiscussionzoomlink](#)

## UUA General Assembly, June 22-26



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

Every year, our denomination's governance entity, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) hosts the General Assembly (GA), where UU's from all over the world gather. This year will be a hybrid event, with both in-person and zoom attendance options.

The theme for 2022 is:

***Meet The Moment***  
***Reimagining Radical Faith Community.***

The UUA may provide some financial support for registration - on a first-come, first served basis. Register at [uua.org/ga/registration](https://uua.org/ga/registration).

## Beacon Schedule

*The USNF Beacon* is published on Tuesdays with featured articles appearing each week.

Pictures/Illustrations are strongly encouraged!

The monthly schedule is:

Week 1 - Minister's Notes

Week 2 - Board Report

Week 3 - Committee Reports and Articles

Week 4 - Religious Education and Faith Development

Week 5 - Editor's choice for months with 5 Tuesdays

Articles/photos are due the Friday before the week they are to be published. Articles should be 250 words max. For longer articles, please contact the [editor](#).

Send Submissions, **with the word Beacon in the subject line** to:

[newsletter@uunorthampton.org](mailto:newsletter@uunorthampton.org)

Contact  
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