

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro



Tom Hicks, President



MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister



COME JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY: 27 MARCH

Egg Hunt @ 10 am

Service with Flower Communion @ 10:30 am

Potluck following Service

Bring a flower to share at Service & a dish to share at Meal! Invite a friend!

LOOKING AHEAD

Last June, the UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff team convened a Summit on the Sustainability of Ministries in St. Louis. The report of their proceedings was issued in October and is available at <http://www.uua.org/careers/summit-economic-sustainability-ministries>

Basically, the Summit considered financial problems facing both individuals in the work force (not just ministry professionals) and congregations. The issues are ones with which we are very familiar:

- The religious landscape has changed
- The congregational model is a mixed-bag
- Assets (like buildings) are a mixed bag
- Ministry is happening in new ways
- The middle class is disappearing
- Talking about money and giving makes us uneasy

Participants said that one immediate strategy for renewing our efforts is simply changing the frame of reference: The sky is opening not falling!

The Summit was just a beginning; the conversation is continuing. Some of the strategies under consideration will not be applicable to us. For example, we don't have an endowment to

leverage! However, we are not exempt from the issues and do need to think carefully about our hopes, dreams, and plans.

Generosity, dedication, and grace have kept us going for many years--and will certainly be part of our life going forward. As always, we begin our planning for our future with gratitude for and to all of you that sustain us. Thank you!

Now we need to be serious about the work of looking ahead and discerning:

- Who we want to be
- What we want to do
- How we'll contribute to a good life in and for Owensboro
- *And how we are going to get there.*

Please stay engaged in the discernment! Claudia



Let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the warm of the sun's rays
And ready to emerge with a new energy, ready to face the day.

Jennifer McGlothlin

