

News From Your Ministerial Search Committee

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop: Highlights

Rev. Keith Kron, the UUA Transitions Director, facilitated a great discussion at the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop on Saturday, October 18th. He talked about how people naturally try to categorize people when they first meet them. Is the person tall or short? Is the person male or female? What's their skin color? How old are they? Are they in a wheelchair? But if we don't see beyond these categories – if we make assumptions about that person based on stereotypes of categories we've placed them in, and don't notice the many other qualities of that person that have nothing to do with the categories we've assigned to them – we fail to see the person as the individual that person is. When we rely less on categories to learn about each other, we see the whole person, and we live by our first UU principle: we respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We, the members of your search committee, will take the lessons from the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop to heart as we review potential candidates. Our goal is to look for a person who has the skills and qualities we seek; who is comfortable with our culture; who fits in well and will guide our congregation in the direction we want to go. As long as we focus on these qualities, rather than skin color, gender, sexual orientation, etc., we'll be living our UU principles.

Rev. Kron also charged us all to continue the conversations that were started in the workshop, with each other, and with others who weren't in the workshop. Here are some resources if you're interested in learning more.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk entitled "The Danger of a Single Story":

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

UUA's website addressing Multicultural issues

<http://www.uua.org/directory/staff/multiculturalgrowth/multiculturalgrowth/index.php>

Thank You!

The Ministerial Search Committee is so grateful for all for your input over the last few months. Over 150 people attended the Focus Groups, over 300 surveys were completed, and 30 people joined us for the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, with more attending Keith Kron's service the following day. We've been listening to you, and are using all of the input we've collected to create TUCW's profile that potential ministerial candidates will review. Now it's time for the search committee to go "heads down" to finish polishing our congregational profile, then starting in January, review applications from potential ministers. Survey results will be presented after services on Sunday, December 7th. Keep watching Soundings and the weekly e-blasts for updates on the Search Committee's progress. And feel free to email us if you have any questions or concerns: ministersearch@uuwestport.org.

Members of the Search Committee: *Jim Cooper, Charles Harrington, Linda Hudson, Kristen Leddy, Carrie McEvoy, John Mason, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pfluger and Kathy Roberts*



Flowers for September & October

September 7

Given by Jean, Neil and Todd Coleman

September 14

In loving memory of Dee Hershman

Given by the Blau family

October 5

Given in thanks to the guys of UGNO

October 12

In celebration of our marriage

Given by Dee & Stephen Shea

October 19

In loving memory of

Pamela Harrington

August 9, 1946 – October 14, 2013

October 26

In celebration of the 13th anniversary
of my ordination here
with ongoing gratitude, Peggy Block.

Endorsed Community Minister,

UU Danbury

Happy 57th anniversary

Mary & Larry Kastriner –

love, Cathy, Sue, Marianne and their



CALLING ALL ELVES

Each year, our church "elves" answer letters to Santa from Beardsley School children to help make their families' Christmas a bit brighter. These children are pre-selected by the school, so we know there is a definite need.

We have a great time working together (all via email, no meetings), and shopping.

If you would like to join us or want more information please contact Felicity at

felicitymedinger@sbcglobal.net, or 203 923-3664. It will end up being one of the best memories of your holidays! Lives copy