



Standing on the Side of Love in SLC

Members of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations have unveiled a campaign against hate crimes at General Assembly this week (June 24-29), calling on our congregations and those of other faiths to advocate for equality and to curb violence.

"Rather than hunkering down in the face of violence, (the Unitarians) have proclaimed a gospel of love and hope," said the Rev. William Sinkford, the outgoing UUA president, in an interview.

The campaign holds particular meaning for the liberal-leaning denomination. Last summer, a gunman killed two people and wounded seven inside a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Knoxville, Tenn. The gunman, David Adkisson, later told authorities he was angered by the church's acceptance of homosexuality and other liberal causes.



Rev. Peter Morales Elected as Eighth President of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

June 27, 2009

Rev. Peter Morales, senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, today was elected to be the eighth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) at the Association's General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Morales received a total of 2061 votes, 1020 of which were cast as absentee ballots. His opponent, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, formerly senior minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas, received a total of 1481 votes, 827 of which were absentee ballots. Morales' margin of victory was 580 votes.

Moderator Gini Courter and Financial Advisor Dan Brody, both incumbents running unchallenged, were re-elected to four-year terms. The congregational delegates to General Assembly also elected two Trustees-at-Large and members of several Association committees and commissions.

Speaking of his aspirations for Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Morales said, "I want to grow our faith, to reach all those people who are looking for non-dogmatic, liberal religious community. I look forward to working with partners in many other progressive and justice-seeking religious groups. There are tremendous issues that we'll be facing in the coming years and we're going to need one another."



Revision of our Principles and Purposes Defeated

In a heated debate making even Robert (of Robert's Rules) proud, our delegates at GA defeated the proposed amendment to our bylaws that would have changed our principles and purposes. Some citing the change was not reverent enough, the final paper vote proved the wording not sufficient enough to sway the vote.