

Annual Cluster Conference
Saturday, April 5, 2008
At Shelter Neck Camp
3747 Croombsbridge Road
Burgaw NC

For further information contact Brian at asstdre@c3huu.org, (919) 818-4284 or Feryl at oferyl@gmail.com.

Registration fee \$15.00 if postmarked before March 25, 2008--after that registration is \$18 and payable only at the door. If you plan to spend the night please add \$10 to registration.

Email or mail registration after March 24 to Clougherty.brian@gmail.com.

Make checks out to UCONCI or (Universalist Convention of NC, Inc) and specify for Cluster meeting.

Registration includes Saturday Lunch and drinks/snacks.

Schedule

9:00 - 9:30	Registration/Check-in
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome, Orientation, and Opening Worship
10:00 - 11:30	Session 1 (Workshop descriptions follow the schedule.) How to Grow Small Congregations Saving Jesus UUSC Hurricane Relief by Cluster Congregations
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch provided onsite
1:00 - 2:30	Session 2 Appreciative Inquiry Stewardship with a Positive Approach
2:30 - 4:00	Session 3 Breaking through Growth Barriers for mid-sized congregations Uniting UUs

After the meeting, those who wish may get together for dinner at 6:00 at Holland's Holly Shelter Cafe on Hwy 53.

Workshop Descriptions

How to Grow Small Congregations

Are small congregations really that different than other size churches when it comes to growth? Have you gone to growth workshops only to come out feeling like we can never do all that; that won't work for us. Let's join in a dialogue about the characteristics of small congregations and how those characteristics impact growth. Share what steps you have taken to grow, if not in number, than in spirit, mission, and organization. Small can be strong and healthy. Provide feedback to the District on what kind of help you need. Workshop will be led by current District Growth and Development Chair, Nancy Proctor. Nancy is currently on the Board of UU of the Outer Banks and Long Range Planning Committee. She will share what she has humbly learned about and how she has adapted to the differences between metropolitan, large congregations, and rural, small congregations. We can celebrate both! Nancy was Board President of UU Annapolis when it became a breakthrough congregation, lauded at the 2006 General Assembly. During her tenure the congregation received a LREDA grant, a Chalice-Lighter grant for innovative church growth, and the District Picket Award.

Saving Jesus

The Jesus Seminar, Bishop Shelby Spong, Matthew Fox's Creation Spirituality – there are several movements afoot to reclaim a sane, compassionate, liberal Jesus from fundamentalist distortions. Red Hill Universalist Church has been presenting a program about just such a Jesus. Hear highlights, engage the topic and learn about this program. Presented by Rev. Brian Clougherty, president of the Universalist Convention of North Carolina.

UUSC Hurricane Relief by Cluster Congregations

Hear how you and/or your congregation can help with Hurricane Katrina relief work. Area UU's went to the Gulf Coast last August-September to help the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) effort to rebuild churches and communities. Workshop led by Fred Anderson (TJD Board member) and Rev. Sally White (minister of Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, Morehead City). Would the Cluster like to organize a trip?

Appreciative Inquiry - Hands-On

In this experiential workshop we will conduct a brief inquiry exercise with all workshop participants, and then proceed to process the responses together: write up the responses, sort them, group them and report back to the group itself. While the concept of Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is intriguing, it can be intimidating to use it within the congregation, if one has never done it before. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to gain some experience with the full process of AI, while having the opportunity to ask questions and brainstorm potential specific challenges along the way. Uta Mattox President of the Fayetteville Fellowship will lead this workshop.

Stewardship with a Positive Approach

Too often, congregational leaders focus on what the congregation needs to receive and plan their pledge drives accordingly. Rev. Ann Marie Alderman, minister with Greenville, NC UU's, will help us understand why we should begin with what folks "need" to give!

Breaking through Growth Barriers for mid-sized congregations

Have your membership numbers plateaued. Do you feel like you have a revolving door – 20 people join and 20 people drop out. What can you do break through that growth barrier. This workshop is similar to one given at 2005 GA and will be led by current District Growth and Development Chair, Nancy Proctor. Nancy is currently on the Board of UU of the Outer Banks and Long Range Planning Committee. Nancy was Board President of UU Annapolis when it became a breakthrough congregation, lauded at the 2006 General Assembly. During her tenure the congregation received a LREDA grant, a Chalice-Lighter grant for innovative church growth, and the District Picket Award

Uniting UUs

Too often Unitarian Universalists feel isolated, like islands in society. How can we find ways to do more things together, either between nearby congregations or as a cluster? Group discussion workshop. Feryl Masters from the Fayetteville Fellowship will lead this workshop.

All registrations (see next page) (\$15 before 3/25; add \$10/person if staying overnight) should be mailed by March 24th to:

Susan Wasilewski, 7305 Fiesta Way, Raleigh, NC 27614
Or pay \$18 at the door.

What to bring? Closed top shoes, pillows, sheets or sleeping bags, towels, toiletries, personal snacks or beverages, flashlights, musical instruments, and if tenting, all your tenting stuff...

Other Accommodations? For those who prefer more privacy or motel accommodations, the Holiday Inn Express at Wallace (about 10 mi. away) is very nice and reasonably priced. Located at the intersection of I-40 and NC 41, at exit 385, phone number is 910-285-9200, email address: holidayexpress@duplinnet.com. At Holland's Shelter Creek Restaurant and Outdoor Adventures, approximately 3 miles from Shelter Neck on HWY 53, RV hook-ups and almost new "rustic" cabins which sleep up to 4 people, with heat, air conditioning and indoor plumbing at \$68 per night (double occupancy) are available. For further information see www.hollandssheltercreek.com or 910-259-5743.

Special Needs? Let us know...Vegetarian, Allergies, Diet, etc. (need advance notice for diet food items--local groceries limited in certain food selections!)

For further information on an event, directions to Shelter Neck Camp, or brief history of Shelter Neck email:

events@ShelterNeckUUCamp.org or guildmasters@mindspring.com

Or see www.ShelterNeckUUCamp.org

Next page is registration form.

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(Lines beginning with asterisks need not be completed by adults.)

If mailing registration, send to Brian Clougherty, 112 Monticello Ave, Durham, NC 27707.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail: _____

Church: _____

*Parent or Guardian Names (If not attending event):

Their contact phone number: _____

Alternate Emergency # _____

People registered with this registration: Adults ____; 13-18 ____;
7-12 _____ 0-6 _____

*Children and youth Birthdays (name: month/day/year): _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

Children 18 years old and younger must agree to the Big 4 "easy to follow and still have fun rules." -- 1. no violence; 2. no alcohol or illegal drugs of any kind; 3. no tobacco products; 4. no sex.

Camper's Signatures: _____

Vegetarian? _____

Any special diet or needs? (Please specify)

Any Medical information or other information you wish organizers to know:

