



# The Global Chalice

ICUU Newsletter [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net) June/July 2006

A Publication of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists

## **Theological Symposium: Liberal Religion For a Changing Global Society July 3-8, 2006**

You are invited to attend the ICUU's second International Unitarian/Universalist Theological Symposium. Our focus will be the theological challenges and opportunities facing our liberal religious movement in this time of increased economic and social globalization and environmental degradation. How do we respond as religious liberals? What are the theological foundations for our responses, and how are our theological foundations shifting?

Speakers and participants will address questions about religious diversity, worship and congregational life, social justice, and outreach in this era in which all communities and organizations are impacted by globalization.

The symposium will include presentation of papers from Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist theologians and writers from ICUU member groups and emerging groups around the world, plus panel discussions, theological seminars, daily worship, and informal sharing. Featured speakers will include John Buehrens, Paul Rasor, Richard Boeke, Jaime de Marcos, Derek McCullough, Derrick Pariat, Kathy Sage, Kinga-Reka Sigismund, and more. Participants from new UU groups in Latin America and Africa will attend, as well as from established groups in Europe, North America, Australia /New Zealand, and Asia. The symposium is open to all interested individuals.

The symposium will be hosted by the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, the oldest Unitarian movement in the world, at the Unitarian College in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

Optional extras following the symposium: a 3-day guided tour of historic Transylvania, and a 5-day conference in Elderhostel style exploring Transylvanian history and culture—food, wine, music, and Hungarian language lessons. For more information, please visit [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net)

## **Indonesian Unitarians Respond to Disaster**

Indonesia, which suffered so much loss in the tsunami only 18 months ago, has suffered another natural disaster—a 6.2 Richter scale earthquake. The threat of volcanic eruption remains.

Among many thousands of Indonesians directly affected are the members of Jamaat Allah Global Indonesia, the church welcomed into provisional ICUU membership at the 2005 Council meeting on the strength of a glowing report from Transylvanian minister István Kovács.

JAGI member Ellen Kristi reports: "Since the center of earthquakes is close to Java Island, and close to several cities where our members dwell, some members of ours are affected. No human casualties thank God, only homes cracked or shattered by the quakes.

"The center of quakes is only 30 km away from the coastline of Yogya. When the biggest quake happened, many church members were in Sarangan, East Java, hundreds of kms away from Yogya, at our annual Church Gathering. But we could feel the shake for about 10 seconds. At first we thought Mount Merapi erupted, but we soon found out that an earthquake had brought down thousands of houses around Yogya.

"We have started to gather funds to help our members. We also want to mobilize funds to provide basic needs to quake victims. My husband, with his fellow worker in Habitat for Humanity, had surveyed Bantul as the worst site struck by the quakes and saw what the victims need most right now are shelter tents.

"Please keep on praying for us, not only for our members but also for our fellow Indonesians, victims of the quakes."

Information about how to donate to JAGI's earthquake relief efforts may be found at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)



### **Servetus Pilgrimage Highlight of 2005 Council Meeting**

Although business meetings, workshops and social events are not to be discounted, and the Montserrat Abbey features amazing scenery, the world-famous Black Madonna, and an outstanding boys' choir, the undoubted spiritual highlight of the 2005 Council meeting was our daylong pilgrimage to Michael Servetus' birthplace in Villanueva de Sijena.

The graciousness of our welcome at the Servetus Institute could not be overstated. Both the Institute's officials and the mayor of Villanueva seemed truly honored that we had come and were especially pleased to be welcoming a bishop (Árpád Szabó of Transylvania) and two presidents (Gordon Oliver of the ICUU and Bill Sinkford of the UUA).

In all more than 80 of us paid homage to a courageous seeker who found no scriptural basis for the trinity, who insisted on following the demand of his own conscience to proclaim the unity of God, and who was punished for that insistence with a death exceptionally cruel even for 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe.

Following a brief tour of the birthplace and museum, we were treated to speeches of welcome, an academic lecture on Servetus by Jaume de Marcos, and a moving worship service led by the Rev. Richard Boeke. Afterward, the Institute unveiled a large brass plaque commemorating the ICUU's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our visit to the birthplace of Michael Servetus, "pioneer and first martyr of Unitarianism."

Our pilgrimage concluded with a silent candlelight procession through the streets of Villanueva from Servetus' birthplace to his statue in the town square, where he sits in front of the local church. Many townspeople joined us. We placed our candles on and around the statue, the church bells were rung, and finally we sang the stirring round we'd been taught on the bus, "If not love, what are we here for?"

More details may be found at [www.miguelservet.org](http://www.miguelservet.org)

## **Focus of ICUU**

The ICUU is committed to fulfilling a focused mission in the Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist communities. At its Executive Committee meeting in Frankfurt, Germany in May, the ICUU pledged to seek new ways to foster connections between the leaders of national groups and to serve the members of all national groups to encourage direct involvement in global work.

To this end, an interim mission statement was drafted.

**The mission of the ICUU is:**

- **To foster communication, relationships, and understanding within the international Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist community;**
- **To build networks and partnerships among member groups, their congregations, leaders, and institutions; and**
- **To identify and nurture emerging groups around the world**

**for mutual inspiration, development and growth.**

This mission aligns with the ICUU's strategic priorities, which are to support and develop lay and ministerial leadership across our communities, to enhance communication through the internet and other resources; and to facilitate youth development and opportunities for common work and understanding.

Along with this mission and these priorities, the ICUU is committed to greater transparency in all its work, including continuing the policy of making Executive Committee and Council meetings open to all people interested in global outreach for our free faith.

### **Next Council Meeting**

The 7th Council Meeting of the ICUU, open to all interested persons, will be held in Kolozsvár, Transylvania, in early November 2007.

The program will include worship, workshops, presentations by affiliated groups, and opportunities for conversation with co-religionists from around the world.

In addition to the Council Meeting, participants will be invited to visit historic Unitarian sites and tour Unitarian villages that are part of our faith's legacy.

Please watch [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net) for details as plans mature.

## Friends of ICUU

All Friends are eligible to receive this and future issues of The Global Chalice electronically. In order to get on the distribution list:

1. Become a Friend of ICUU or a Supporting Congregation (details at [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net))
2. Send your current email address to [clifford@universalist.ednet.co.uk](mailto:clifford@universalist.ednet.co.uk) with the message, "Please add to the newsletter distribution list."

## Leadership Conference in the Khasi Hills

This joint venture of the ICUU, the Unitarian Universalist Association (USA), and the Unitarian Union of North East India took place January 8-12, 2006. A training conference for 35 young adult leaders of UUNEI, it was organized on the theme of "Building Our Spirituality Together."

Faculty for the conference came from the USA, UK, and India, with students (aged 17-45) carefully chosen by local church leaders. The conference was originally planned by American Revs. Olivia Holmes and Abhi Janamanchi, in consultation with UUNEI officials, and benefited from dynamic re-adjustments throughout. Khasi faculty were H.H. Mohrem, Pearl Greene Marbaniang, Derrick Pariat, and Bah Khlur Mukhim, with Janamanchi, Richard Kellaway, and David Shaw from overseas.

It is hoped this conference can have long-reaching effects in two areas: as the beginning of a new era in leadership development for UUNEI and as a model for future collaboration between the ICUU and its member groups. It must be stressed that the success of this venture can be attributed in large part to its intense focus at every stage on the acknowledged needs of local participants, including an overarching commitment from faculty and organizers to keep the program flexible and responsive.

Activities included lectures on Unitarian history, the art of worship, and credo development; small-group discussion (in Khasi) of personal faith statements and views of Jesus; bilingual worship services presented by faculty and students; hymn singing; yoga; guided meditation; and a talent show. It was important that all participants lived and ate together throughout the conference.

The event closed with a moving graduation ceremony, in which all participants pledged to carry forward what they had learned into their own congregations.

from a report by the Rev. Richard Kellaway,  
posted at [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net)

## Canadian Unitarian Council

The CUC held its Annual Conference and Meeting May 19-22 in Saint John, New Brunswick, on the theme "Riding the UU Tide."

Keynote speaker Allan Sharp revealed in the physical and metaphoric significance of the locale, challenging Canadian Unitarians to "draw hope, inspiration, and knowledge from the Bay of Fundy. We can learn how to shape ourselves and articulate a powerful worldview that will allow us to influence public policy far beyond our modest numbers, and ... to rise above the ordinary, like the Fundy tides, and greatly enrich the contribution we can make to Canada, and Canada can make to the broader world."

More than 300 people attended the event, which featured worship, multi-generational events, regional networking, workshops on dozens of subjects, and resolutions on gender and sexual diversity and global warming. The meeting also elected a board of directors for the CUC, led by new president Vyda Ng.

For more information about the Canadian Unitarian Council, please visit [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)

## UUSC Founders Acclaimed

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is celebrating the recognition of two of its founders, the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, as "Righteous among the Nations."

The Sharps have become the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Americans so honored by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial. Their work in Czechoslovakia and France during World War II, helping refugees from Nazism get to safer territory, saved thousands of lives.

Charlie Clements, president of the UUSC, emphasized the value of this award as a spur to contemporary action. "This wasn't just about celebrating the past, but about what celebrating the past can inspire us to do today."

More information on the Sharps and on the ceremony honoring them in Jerusalem June 13 may be found at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

The Flaming Chalice symbol, now so widespread in the Unitarian world, was designed for the Service Committee in 1941 for use in European rescue and relief work like that undertaken by the Sharps.

## Norwegian Marriage News

On May 31, 2006 The Bét Dávid Unitarian Association (Norwegian Unitarian Church) received full legal rights to perform marriages according to Norwegian law. For the first time since 1937 Unitarian marriages are again possible in Norway. I am very grateful for all of you that have supported and helped us to achieve this important license. It has been a two year struggle that is now crowned with success.

—Knut Heidelberg, Norway

### ICUU Member Groups

Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Association  
Canadian Unitarian Council  
Religious Society of Czech Unitarians  
Danish Unitarian Church  
European Unitarian Universalists  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Finland  
Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)  
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain)  
Unitarian Church in Hungary  
Indian Council of Unitarian Churches  
Jemaat Allah Global Indonesia  
Unitarian Brotherhood Church (Nigeria)  
Unitarian Universalist Christians of Pakistan  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines, Inc.  
Unitarian Church in Poland  
Transylvanian Unitarian Church (Romania)  
Moscow Unitarian Advocates (Russia)  
Unitarian Church of South Africa  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Spain  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Sri Lanka  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA)

#### Executive Committee, 2005-7

President: **Rev. Gordon Oliver**, South Africa  
Vice President: **John Slattery**, Canada  
Secretary: **Pearl Greene Marbaniang**, India  
Treasurer: **Barbara Beach**, USA  
At Large: **Jaume de Marcos**, Spain  
**Rev. István Kovács**, Transylvania  
**Antje Paul**, Germany  
Executive Secretary: **Rev. John Clifford**, UK

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## Member Groups' Websites

The first six sites are in English, afterwards in other languages with English options as noted.

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (USA)

[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain)

[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) Canadian Unitarian Council

[www.anzua.org/anzua\\_alt](http://www.anzua.org/anzua_alt) Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Association

[www.euu.uua.org](http://www.euu.uua.org) European Unitarian Universalists

[www.unitarian.co.za](http://www.unitarian.co.za) Unitarian Church of South Africa

[www.unitarius.hu](http://www.unitarius.hu) Unitarian Church in Hungary—enter in Hungarian or English

[www.unitarius.ro](http://www.unitarius.ro) Transylvanian Unitarian Church—enter site by clicking on belépés, then click on the US flag (not working at press time)

[www.unitarisme.dk](http://www.unitarisme.dk) Danish Unitarian Church—click on “info in English,” left column.

[www.unitarier.de](http://www.unitarier.de) Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (Germany)—select English at top left

[www.suue.org](http://www.suue.org) Sociedad Unitaria Universalista de España (Spain)—ICUU's newest full member group—site now includes Spanish, Catalan, English, and French content. Readers of Spanish will also want to visit [www.uuhispano.net](http://www.uuhispano.net)

[www.netlife.fi/users/anti.pelkola/uu](http://www.netlife.fi/users/anti.pelkola/uu) Unitarian Universalist Society of Finland—limited English content

[www.unitaria.cz](http://www.unitaria.cz) Religious Society of Czech Unitarians—no English content at press time

See also [w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/UU.html](http://w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/UU.html) on the congruence between Unitarian Universalist principles and ideas underlying the world wide web.

**The Global Chalice** is a publication of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, an association of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist organizations and congregations in more than 20 countries. Learn more about the ICUU on our website, [www.icuu.net](http://www.icuu.net)

Officers and staff of the ICUU and its member groups may submit material for this newsletter by contacting the editor, Lorella Thomas Hess, [newsletter@icuu.net](mailto:newsletter@icuu.net)