

Welcome Message from Dawn Casstevens, NE Region Director of Operations and Communication

Subject: Welcome to the New England Region of the UUA

Dear Friends at the Unitarian Church in Westport,

We are delighted to welcome you as a member congregation of the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association following your formal vote last spring. Over the summer your regional affiliation was updated within UUA information systems, making our new relationship official!

Our mission as [regional staff](#) is to equip and support religious professionals and lay leaders for healthy, vibrant Unitarian Universalist ministries within congregations and beyond. We're here to listen, support, coach and consult on any aspect of congregational life. Often we are called to help foster aspirational change sought by congregational leaders. We offer conversations, visits, facilitation, referrals, resources and learning opportunities focused on the change you are seeking to bring about. An equally important part of the work is joyful celebration and witness of successes and breakthroughs in your ministries -- we can learn so much from one another.

Please share this message with leaders in your congregation and encourage them to

- [sign up for our weekly regional emails](#)
- [visit our website](#) to learn about our [services](#), staff contacts, and download resources
- like our [New England Region UUA Facebook page](#)
 - [UUMA New England](#) Minsters Facebook Group
 - [New England Religious Educators](#) Facebook Group

As you may know, our staff and our UUA are undergoing significant transition, beginning last spring amid [public controversy](#) around hiring practices and white supremacy culture. In June, we welcomed our newly-elected UUA President [Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray](#) and look forward to building a bright, mission-centered future together. In July and August, we bid farewell to our New England Regional Lead [Rev. Sue Phillips](#), and Faith Formation Lead Kim Sweeney. There have been many other [shifts and events](#) in our midst that are changing our ways of being and thinking as a faith community.

Across our Association, staff is learning how to recognize and dismantle [white supremacy culture](#) within ourselves, our organization and movement. New England Regional staff is actively engaged in this [vital work](#) with colleagues and congregations. The search for [Acting Regional Lead](#) is underway, and soon we will launch the search for a new Events Coordinator. During the fall, we have temporarily suspended workshops and webinars, and expect to resume offering learning events in the spring. We will continue to [OWL Facilitator Trainings](#) throughout the year for all age levels.

We begin the fall season as a regional team deeply committed to our mission, faithfully collaborating in new and intentional ways, and energized about the team we are becoming. It is an exciting, dynamic and hopeful time to be a Unitarian Universalist as we grow into our full potential of living by our values. We feel blessed to be on this journey together with you.

Please reach out anytime to ask questions, express concerns, and share your joys and successes.

In faith,

Dawn Casstevens on behalf of your New England Region UUA Staff

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