

To: The TUCW Board of Trustees

From: Rev. John Morehouse, Senior Minister and CEO
Lynda Shannon, Board President

Date: September 16, 2016

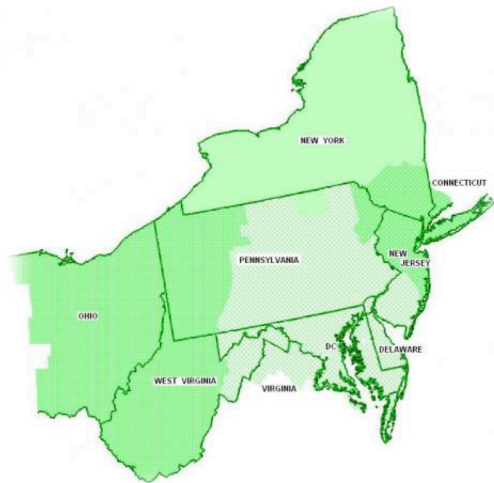
Subject: Recommendation in Favor of Changing Regional Affiliation

1. The Timing is Right

At its last Annual Meeting in May of 2016, the UU District of Metropolitan voted to dissolve. TUCW was part of the Metro NY District from the time of the consolidation of the AUA and the Universalist Church of America in 1961. Westport chose MNY because it encompassed a small area clustered around Manhattan - easily accessible by public transportation.

2. Regionalization in the UUA: Central East Region v New England Region

The new regional boundaries tell a lot of the story: the Central East Region now extends as far east as Ohio and as far south as West Virginia. Only 3 congregations from CT, TUCW plus Stanford and Danbury are in this region. The New England Region serves all of CT except for these three.



Central East Region



3. Statewide Networks and Legislative Ministries in the UUA

A growing trend in our movement is for Unitarian Universalists to organize networks of congregations and individual UUs interested in social justice work. UU legislative ministries and statewide advocacy networks can be an important part of

our social justice work focused on CT issues such as gun safety, death with dignity and education inequality among others.

4. increased Participation in Regional Clusters

Increasing participation in regional workshops and programs has proven to be easier when crossing the East and Hudson rivers is not part of the equation. This past spring several members of our congregation participated in a day of sharing and learning at the Hamden, CT congregation - many more than those who attended the final Metro New York District Annual Meeting in Morristown, NJ.

5. New England Region - Not all New

Former Metro District staff member Doug Zelinski is now in the New England Region, as is Joe Sullivan who led our PG 101 Retreat. The NE Region's programs for the coming year look particularly relevant to much of what we are doing at TUCW. [Workshops, Webinars and Trainings 2016 - 2017](#)

What would be the downside of changing our Regional affiliation?

We have had a long relationship with the former Metro NY District, especially the former District Executive, Andrea Lerner, who is now on staff in the CE Region. Andrea is the main reason we feel lingering loyalty to the new home of the MNY District. She has provided constant and excellent support to TUCW over the years.

Many members of our congregation have served on the MNY District Board (Bob and Carolyn Lavender, Jerry and Denny, Lynda B, Linda H, Rick Fierberg) and have received special recognition and awards from the District (Bob Lavender, Denny, Lynda) and have ties with other MNY congregations.

Neither of us think either of these two relationship ties to the former MNY District outweigh what we perceive to be benefits of asking the UUA's Department of Congregational Life for a change of regional affiliation for our congregation.

JTM and LKS