



## **East Tennessee Cluster of UU Churches**

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### **EAST TENNESSEE CLUSTER ANNUAL FALL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 1-2, 2010**

#### **TENTATIVE PROGRAM**

##### **Friday evening;**

**7-8pm Keynote address:** The Rev. Christine Robinson: – **“Religious Diversity: Our gift to Ourselves and our World”** -

Once upon a time people flocked to our doors because we offered a place for them to experience "rational religion." Now, where people are flocking to UU congregations, it is because they are offering opportunities to grow in spirit within religiously diverse communities. Why the change? What about Rational Religion? How diverse are we and what do we need to do to serve this contemporary need?

**8:00 pm Wine and cheese reception – McKendry Fellowship Hall**

##### **Saturday:**

**8:30- 9:00 Breakfast – McKendry Fellowship Hall**

**9:00 - 9:30 Opening words and Worship; Rev. Chris Buice, and Rev Jake Morrill - Sanctuary**

**9:30 – 10:30 Workshops**

**1. Uh Oh, Religious Language.** Led by *Rev. Christine Robinson, Albuquerque UU Church.*

Why have we let religious conservatives hog all the good religious words with their narrow definitions? We can play at the same game! An interactive workshop allowing participants to think about definitions of words like God, prayer, scripture, and afterlife that they can accept. Bring writing materials.

**2. A Simple Church for a Pluralist Faith.** Led by Rev. Jake Morrill and Tandy Scheffler (Masters Credentialed Religious Educator) Oak Ridge UU Church

Responding to our society's desire for choice, churches can become a disordered blur of programs. Instead, say evangelical authors Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger, people are seeking a path. Providing that path, they say, is the mission of the church. In the last year, leaders at Oak Ridge UU Church have begun adapting Rainer and Geiger's model to a pluralist faith, trying to build a coherent, shared path that still embraces diversity. Join Tandy and Jake for a progress report.

3. **Good Governance Makes Great Congregations.** Led by Annette Marquis, District Executive, Thomas Jefferson District

When a congregation practices good governance, the congregation is focused on its mission and vision, understands the transcendent values that guide it, and has clarity about its path to the future. Good governance requires intention, study, and practice. In this workshop, we'll explore the characteristics of good governance, how issues related to power and authority impact good governance, and how a congregation can move to a system of good governance that enhances congregational life.

4. **"Diversity as a Challenge to UU Congregations."** Led by District Social Justice Coordinator, Donna Sequiera

*10:30-11:00 Coffee break*

*11:00- 11:45 Workshop continuation*

*12:00 -1:00pm Lunch*

*1:00- 2:00: Workshops*

1. **Covenant Groups: formal programs and informal groups in and out of congregations.** Led by Rev. Christine Robinson, Albuquerque UU Church

Christine will introduce one model of small group ministry; one which is easy on leaders and fosters deep sharing among participants. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to try this out and make a new friend or two in the process. Christine's book will be available for sale and it contains all the materials a program or group leader needs for a year's worth of sharing groups.

2. **Reaching a New World in New Ways: Ministry and New Media** co-led by Rev. Jake Morrill and Kimberly Donnelly, Oak Ridge UU Church

Social scientists have observed that, in the twenty-first century, how we congregate has changed as radically as how we communicate. How can the church adapt to these new norms with integrity and creativity? What tools are helpful? This workshop will present concepts and concrete ideas for engaging a new age.

3. **Multicultural Congregations in a Multicultural Country.** Led by Annette Marquis, District Executive, Thomas Jefferson District

The Reverend Mark Morrison Reed refers to Unitarian Universalism as an ethnic faith. If this is true and if we want to do more than preserve our culture against extinction, we

need to understand our own ethnicity and how we make room for those who do not share our unique culture identity. In this workshop, we'll explore what it means to be a multi-cultural congregation and if we are daring enough to go there, what steps we need to take to achieve that goal.

*2:15-2:30 Coffee break*

*2:30 – 3:00 Continuation of workshops*

*3:15 – 3:30 Closing words*