



The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakecounty.org)

Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/UUlakeco](https://www.facebook.com/UUlakeco)



11 AM Worship Service

October 5 – “Justice in a Diversified World” – V. White Muhammad, PhD

We will be challenged to explore the struggle and contradictions of building an egalitarian society in a diversified republic that has practiced extreme forms of nativism, xenophobia, and racism throughout its history. Dr. Muhammad will question the quest for “true” justice, equality, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in 21st century America.

Dr. Muhammad graduated from Bethune-Cookman University (1980), Purdue University (1982) and Ohio State University (1988). Currently, he serves the University of Central Florida as an Associate Professor of Public History.

The professor is regarded by some as the nation’s premier scholar on the Nation of Islam and African-American Islamic communities as well as Islamic societies in Latin America and the Caribbean. He has been published in several academic journals and created scores of exhibits for museums and historical societies while showcasing his works in magazines and newspapers, on the History and Discovery channels, BBC, PBS, CBS, NPR, Israeli TV, Brazilian TV and Al-Jazeera TV.

He is the author of the academic bestseller, *Inside the Nation of Islam*. The professor is also a member of the clergy. He is a former Minister in the Nation of Islam and currently serves as an Imam/Minister for Muslim inmates in the Orange County correctional system.

Dr. Muhammad was the architect and Project Director of the New Philadelphia Dig in Central Illinois from 1998-2004, the first incorporated African-American town in the United States, which culminated in over \$200,000 in a federal grant and two major documentaries. Currently, he is the historian for the Search of Angola Project (Bradenton, Florida), and Head Researcher on “Adorkaville an African Settlement in Florida (Jacksonville, Florida).”

In addition, he has served as a consultant for the Orlando History Center, Illinois Historical Society, The Chicago Historical Society, Ohio Historical Society and the Cincinnati Historical Society. At OHS the professor was the Project Director and head historian for the Paul Laurence Dunbar Museum while also advising on the opening exhibits for the National African-American Museum in Wilberforce, Ohio. In Cincinnati, Dr. Muhammad created the nationally acclaimed travelers exhibit, “Pullman Porters and Redcaps of Cincinnati”.

His message of hope and spiritual thought have been broadcast and published nationally. Lastly, Dr. Muhammad has served on three White House Commissions (Presidents Clinton and Bush) and several appointments by the governors of Ohio, Illinois, and Florida. White Muhammad is also a member of Rotary International and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Currently, Dr. Muhammad and his wife Michelle have just completed *The Sayings of Imam Warith Deen Muhammad*, while Michelle is writing the biography of Sister Clara Muhammad. The couple has three children, Vibert, Malik and Jira.



October 12 – Rev. Susan Berryman

To be Announced.

October 19 – "The Milky Way and the Andromeda Galaxy on a Collision Course, and the Fate of the Earth"

Ernie Rossi will guide us through a PowerPoint program covering our distant past and distant future and how humans will almost duplicate both as they leave a dying Earth to resettle elsewhere, but with far different technology and circumstances.

October 26 – Rev. Roger Seidner

To be Announced.

9:45 AM Discussion Group

October 5 – UU Building Program: Where we are at this time.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727

Phone: (352) 728-1631

Email contact: lakecountyuu@gmail.com

Website: lakecountyuu.org

Officers

Russ Littlefield, President
Chris Higgins, Vice Pres.
Carl Hommel, Treasurer
Kit Tatum, Secretary

Trustees

Jack Champion
Betty Emery
Carl Skiles

Rev. Susan Berryman, Developmental minister. Phone: (386) 956-6110

Roger Benton Seidner, Consulting minister. Phone: (407) 905-5767

The *Communicator* is published each month, from September through June.

Editor: Ted Fessler Phone: (352) 735 -7405

Highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting of September 10, 2014

Treasurers Report: Carl Hommel made a proposal to change the Budget to reflect \$17,500 salary for Susan Berryman, who will perform the duties of a Developmental Minister to our congregation. A motion was made and approved to have the Budget reflect this figure.

A motion was made to move \$1000 from the Programs/Speaker line in the Budget to the Professional Staff/Minister line. The motion was passed.

Carl Hommel requested volunteers to help with the Fall Pledge Campaign.

It was noted by the Treasurer that a Memorial Fund and a Children’s Fund had been funded from monies collected in memory of deceased members and the sale of greeting cards respectively.

Building Committee: Carl Skiles reported we will be making a report and presenting what could be a final plan for the new church building along with some elevation drawings on September 11. The Building Committee is making progress and is pleased with the participation from the Congregation.

Hiring Susan Berryman: The Letter of Agreement between our Congregation and Susan Berryman was reviewed by Chris Higgins. A motion was made to move forward with the finalizing of the agreement to have Susan Berryman provide ministerial services. The motion passed.

We have not received a response from the City of Eustis regarding our request to extend our present rental of the Woman’s Club Building.

Public Relations and Website: We advertise in the local theater playbills and have ads in the Daily Commercial, The Sentinel, and the Triangle Leader. The new website has been launched. The Facebook page is visited regularly; we have 47 followers.

Membership: Eleanor Fessler summarized her concerns for building, maintaining and diversifying the Congregation.

The next meeting of the BOT will be on October 9, at 5:00 p.m., at 127 N. Grove Street.

...Kit Tatum, Secretary

September 15 Meeting With Susan Berryman

The Board of Trustees and members of the Congregation attended a meeting with Reverend Susan Berryman in our office at 127 North Grove, in Eustis, Florida. Susan Berryman had recently signed a Letter of Agreement with our Congregation to become hired as a minister to our congregation.

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m., with five members of the Board of Trustees present, two members of the Congregation and Susan Berryman. Kit Tatum, Secretary, asked Susan Berryman to open the meeting with her plans for the future of our congregation. She responded with the stated desire to have our church become a spiritual home for individuals, families and their children. Susan presented her faith in our congregation to grow and prosper in the following statement "Our potential for this spiritual gathering and future growth lies in the people we currently have."

As the meeting progressed, Susan suggested we go around the table and let each individual express their opinions regarding her hiring as a minister, where they think we are now as a Congregation, her working relationship with Roger Seidner, and will be able to go in the future. This brought the thoughts of our fragmentation of duties because we have not had a home base to operate from. The working relationship with Roger Seidner was of a positive opinion in sharing duties, Sunday services, ministerial duties which both ministers have displayed.

Susan Berryman expressed her interests in working with all committees to become acquainted with the people and the interests of the Congregation. She also offered to give facilitator training in the future, especially for education and community outreach classes designed to grow our Congregation. Make everyone who wishes to carry out the work of each committee feel welcome. Carl Hommel said he has some software we can use to build a "talent bank" and will make it available to the congregation.

The question of office hours was opened. Susan said she was available to members of the congregation at any hour. We did not set definite times when she would be in the office at 127 N. Grove.

Susan Berryman displayed all of the attributes of a person who has skills in organizing, relating to individuals, and representing our congregation in public meetings.

...Kit Tatum, Secretary

Our new **Developmental Minister, Susan Berryman** was welcomed to our congregation on Sunday, September 21. Here is an excerpt from her talk:

Dear UULC Congregation,

Let us commit ourselves to spiritual growth, to walk together on this life's journey, to comfort each other in times of need, to share with each other our joys and sorrows and worries, to help encourage and support each other to be our best possible self, to live out of our open hearts, to learn from each other and inspire each other in our quest for truth, love and understanding. Let this be our covenant!

This covenant is not only to seek truth, but to be truth; not only seek peace but to be peaceful; not only seek justice, but to be just. Our covenant is not only to ourselves for ourselves, but to each other for each other, and not only just each other, but all the others until there is only **we**.

I feel such joy and humility at the prospect of being part of this loving, caring, amazing community. I am so grateful at being given this opportunity to live my spiritual intentions and walk my spiritual path with you.

I pledge to do my best in all ways necessary to fulfill the dreams and desires and the goals and objectives of this congregation and to come together with you to create a community of trust and caring, - sharing and kindness, -love and compassion.

We want this congregation and church to thrive and grow, to be a home and a beacon to all who would like to seek, and learn and grow spiritually

I am proud and happy to be here and I welcome and need all your participation, I encourage your suggestions, your criticism and feedback, and I ask for your support and advice and guidance as we journey together.

In the role as your minister I will be available for the happy times and sad times,; for spiritual care during times of crisis, illness, death and grieving; for spiritual direction and counseling especially during life transitions and times of uncertainty; and my door is always open for conversation and for friendship.

Until office hours are established please call me for an appointment on Wednesday thru Saturday between 10am. and 6pm. My cell number is 386 956-6110

With Peace and Love, Susan.

Book Club Meeting

The group will meet at 3:00 p.m. on October 14, in the office at 127 N. Grove. We decided to read either or both of **Neil Shubin's** books: *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body*; and *The Universe Within: The Deep History of the Human Body*.

It has always been our custom to enjoy hearing about other books you may have been reading. The discussions are lively and new opinions always welcome.

Treasurer's Report

The August 2014 Income was \$1,722, bringing the total for the fiscal year to \$2,029, which was 5.7% of the budgeted amount. The budgeted expenses were \$3,535, bringing the total for the fiscal year to \$4,925, which was 14.1% of the budgeted amount. The expenses of the Ruth Gray Bequest Fund were \$671, bringing the total for the fiscal year to \$5,813. Funds that were earmarked for the Memorial Fund but not transferred there were moved to the Fund in August, totaling \$1,615. Likewise \$210 earmarked for the Children's Fund was moved to that Fund. (This money came from greeting cards sold last fiscal year.)

... **Carl Hommel**

Building and Design committee update, September, 2014

The Building and Design committee met with Joe Rispoli, the architect for our new building, on Thursday September 25th. Joe presented floor plans that were the result of many rounds of feedback and revisions. With some minor adjustments, we feel we have a floor plan we like. The total structure as proposed is 8,699 square feet (heated and cooled). It is a building with a celebration hall that seats 185 with a stage and beautiful windows behind it. The building includes a family room directly off the celebration hall. The family room can be used as a meeting room/multipurpose class room and has its own outside entrance.

The design also includes a separate library/classroom as well as an office. The family room, library, restrooms and office will be in an area that can be used for functions or meetings without opening up the entire building.

The structure will have a grand foyer that leads to the celebration hall and social hall. There will be a moveable wall between the social hall and celebration hall to open the entire area up. The kitchen, which has a large pantry, is off of the social hall with its own entrance from the outside. The kitchen will have two areas for a pass through – one to the social hall and one to a covered outdoor patio for outside events. The social hall will have glass doors that open to the outdoor patio to maximize multiple uses for the space.

At the meeting we discussed some options for the exterior and roofing of the building and we will be discussing them in more detail at the next meeting which is on October 9th at 1pm. All are welcome to attend.

...Betty Emery

October Birthdays

Henry Gray, October 1
Steve Vucic, October 2
Gina Rossi, October 11
Gladys Becker, October 13
Melba Seron, October 14
Carl Stiner, October 17