



## Announcing Ann Gary: 2021 Recipient of the Cornish “Living the Mission” Award

**The UUPCC’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Ann Gary has been chosen to receive the 2021 Louis C. Cornish “Living the Mission” Award.**



The Cornish award is given annually to honor a person who has worked tirelessly to foster the mission of developing and sustaining mutually beneficial congregational partnerships between Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists around the world. The award will be joyously presented to Ann at the UUPCC’s (virtual) Annual Meeting in June.

Ann has been involved with the UUPCC for close to 20 years, first in a networker role and twice serving as a board member. Stemming from a strong personal connection made with Hopedale Unitarian Parish’s partner church in Csekefalva, Transylvania, Ann has worked to help others strengthen connections with their partnerships and resolve issues along the way. Ann has traveled many times to Transylvania, most recently organizing a trip in 2019 to Kolozsvár with a group from First Church Boston, where her husband served as Assistant Minister. She also visited the Khasi Hills to help train leaders and then bear witness to Community Capacity Building in action. Ann ran the Travel Committee as one of her UUPCC board responsibilities and in 2015 headed up the Transition Team to orchestrate the hiring of the UUPCC’s second Executive Director, Rev. Roger

Bertschausen. Ann works as a Management Consultant, serving United States-based clients here and at locations overseas. She is a dedicated humanist and has been a UU for more than 25 years. Ann lives in an old farmhouse in central Massachusetts with her husband, Rev. Tim House (recently retired from First Church Boston.)

### ***Howard Dana, current UUPCC Board Member writes:***

The UUPCC has been greatly enriched by the long, dedicated, and consequential service of Ann Gary. She led the UUPCC’s Travel Committee, working closely with the Travel Coordinators, the Hungarian Unitarian Council (HUC), the Unitarian Union of Northeast India, and the UU Church of the Philippines to ensure travel was mutually beneficial and reflecting of the partnership between both travelers and the hosts. In her work to help select a new Executive Director for the UUPCC, Ann’s clear-eyed, calm leadership and careful, comprehensive process resulted in a qualified candidate with a minimal amount of controversy. Ann embodies the ideal of mutual partnership at the heart of the UUPCC’s mission.

### ***Carol Cook, current UUPCC Board Member writes:***

Ann was the heart, soul, and backbone of the Travel Committee for many years. She and Roger spent a huge amount of time with Csilla and John (and the UUPCC Travel Committee and Board) negotiating the transition to Andrew’s position with great love and care.

**Roger Bertschhausen, former UUPCC Executive Director writes:**

Ann Gary has done much for partnership throughout her many years of involvement. Serving long term as the Chair of the Travel Committee as well as a very active board member, she's lent wisdom and experience that helped shape the organization's purpose and accomplishments. As Chair of the 2015 Search Committee, she put in a lot of time and love that ultimately led to my role as Executive Director. Ann went on to provide insight and stability during this time of transition. In my last year as Executive Director, she worked tirelessly with Andrew and me in shaping a new travel relationship with the HUC. Throughout her tenure with the UUPCC, she has been extraordinarily generous financially.

Of the many things that I appreciate about Ann's long service, I most value her unwavering commitment to *mutual* partnership and embodying that in the travel program. She fostered that dream and did much to nudge our travel program toward that goal. When I picture unwavering dedication to partnership and the UUPCC, I picture Ann!



*Ann, Lilla, and (goddaughter) Eszter. Both girls are daughters of Rev. Noémi Szeredai, First Boston's partner minister in Csekefalva, Transylvania.*

**Dick Van Duizend, former Board Chair of the of the UUPCC and 2020 Cornish Award recipient writes:**

Ann's long, dedicated, consequential service to the UUPCC and her congregational partnership more than qualify her for this award. Ann's contributions to the UUPCC in three areas come to mind:

1. Strategic Planning – Ann played key technological and leadership roles for several years when the UUPCC used Dick Ford's participatory planning process. In particular, she constructed, completed, and computed the results of the paired rankings exercise in which each pair of identified needs are compared and prioritized through consensus. Without her facilitation and technologic skill, the board would not have been able to formulate a clear, detailed, and agreed upon annual strategic plan during its annual in-person meeting in the brief time available.
2. Travel – Ann has led the UUPCC's Travel Committee for many years, working closely with the Travel Coordinators and our overseas partner organizations. In so doing, she assured that travel was rewarding for hosts and participants and that the Travel Program was financially stable.
3. Leadership Succession – Ann led the effort to recruit and select a new Executive Director following Cathy Cordes' decision to retire. She was central in the process for replacing John Dale and Csilla Kolcsar upon their retirement as Co-Travel Coordinators. During an emotional and tumultuous period in the organization's life, Ann's leadership, and the careful, comprehensive process she designed and helped her fellow committee members execute (me included) resulted in the selection of an unquestionably qualified candidate .

*"The wonderful thing about being involved in partnership is the different levels of engagement possible: around history, politics, language, customs, village life, congregational life, and our shared religious roots and spiritual connections...and most importantly, sharing experiences with individuals that can strengthen and transform each other's lives." Ann Gary, 2016*

**The UUPCC celebrates Ann's extraordinary dedication to Partnership!**

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