



## Connection Opportunities During Covid?

*Rev. Andrew Weber, Travel Program Director*

Greetings UUPCC Members! This is an odd time, especially for the UUPCC and our work in international partnerships and travel.

As you probably have guessed, UUPCC sponsored travel has not been happening since March of this year. Even so, people and congregations remain dedicated to their partner relationships. When flights and trips for 2020 were being called off, many congregations and groups decided to “postpone” rather than “cancel” their travel. Core groups remain committed to their relationships and hopeful about future travel. There are two groups in particular who are still very excited and optimistic that their trips will go forward when international travel is again feasible. These two trips: are the Cross Cultural Engagement with Welsh Unitarians

([uupcc.org/sites/default/files/11\\_final\\_wales2020flyer.pdf](http://uupcc.org/sites/default/files/11_final_wales2020flyer.pdf)) and the Youth Pilgrimage to Transylvania ([faithify.org/projects/international-youth-pilgrimage](http://faithify.org/projects/international-youth-pilgrimage)). Our past Executive Director, Roger Bertschausen, stays involved in the Wales trip and I remain the UUPCC contact for the Youth Pilgrimage. These groups continue to build excitement and provide learning opportunities as we wait for travel to be safe again. Specifically, the youth have been meeting virtually and focusing on their community while also doing pre-trip preparation, including learning about Transylvanian culture, history, movies, and food!



*(Left to right) Andrew with Barishisha (Bari) Mukhim and Nangroii Suting from January 2020 trip to NE India.*

Serving as Travel Director with no travel means looking for different opportunities. One of those opportunities is virtual travel. I have just attended a “virtual delegation” put on by another international organization to see how it is done. If it seems feasible for the UUPCC, I plan on reaching out to our partners to see if we can try something similar. What do you think about a virtual travel experience through Transylvania, India, or the Philippines? Would you or your congregation be interested? Let me know your thoughts ([andrew@uupcc.org](mailto:andrew@uupcc.org)).

Our Interim Executive Director Fred Muir and I think that there are two good options for nontravel connections. The first is the virtual travel idea I am working on, and the second is Sunday-focused virtual sharing. Some congregations are already doing this, whether attending each other’s services or sharing parts of services over the miles. I remind myself that as we connect virtually, the congregation down the street is now just as far away as the congregation an ocean away—and they are both just as close. If you have questions about how to get connected or want to share how you are connected, reach out to Fred ([fred@uupcc.org](mailto:fred@uupcc.org)).

Khublei! (a Khasi greeting and salutation)

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