



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL

## May 22, 2020 Special Announcement

Dear UUPCC Members and Supporters,

With some heaviness in my heart and a bottomless sense of gratitude, I write to announce my resignation as Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council. July 17, 2020 will be my last day of service.

Working with the Fox Valley UU Fellowship's partnerships with Deva, Transylvania and Banaybanay in the Philippines when I was a minister there, serving on the UUPCC Board, and these past four years as Executive Director have been among the most rich and meaningful experiences of my life. Like so many of you, my life has been transformed by Partnership. Among many gifts, I have a deeper and wider understanding of our U/U faith and a sense of connection to our kinfolk in faith that I feel in my heart and bones. I am a different, better person because of Partnership.

It has been a great privilege to serve the UUPCC these past four+ years. I have especially loved getting to know partners abroad and in the US and Canada through virtual and face-to-face visits. This has been a time of amazing transition—succeeding longtime Executive Director Cathy Cordes who lovingly shaped the organization, moving the office to St. Louis, and navigating enormous changes in the UU Association and in the wider world including now a pandemic. With the exploration of the global structure of our faith with the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, the UUA and others now underway, the UUPCC may undertake another proactive transition in the midst of all this global transition. My biggest regret about leaving at this juncture is not seeing this global U/U exploration through. I feel like this is an incredibly promising initiative and look forward to giving it my all between now and July 17.

I am grateful for many people who have been wonderful to work with and done so much to make Partnership thrive:

- Our dream Board led by the best chairs ever: Rev. Morgan McLean and Richard Van Duizend.
- Our amazing staff—Office Manager Katrina Priese, Travel Program Director Andrew Weber, recently retired Travel Coordinators John Dale and Csilla Kolcsar, and Bookkeeper Libby Hanna.



- Our overseas partners—especially the leaders of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, the UU Church of the Philippines, and the Unitarian Union of NE India.

Most of all, I am grateful for you: the members and supporters of the UUPCC and the people who make Partnership happen through your dedication to your congregation's partnership. You and your overseas partners are the folks who bring this movement to life. Thank you for your dedication to your partnerships. Thank you for your generous support of the UUPCC which makes our work supporting mutual partnerships possible.

On August 1, I will become the Interim Senior Minister of First Unitarian Society in Madison, WI. After enjoying a break from congregational ministry for a few years, I have found myself feeling pulled back into a congregation. One of the joys of serving Madison will be their longtime partnership with Nagyajta, Transylvania.

While I will no longer be the Executive Director of the UUPCC, I will enthusiastically continue to engage in Partnership wherever I can. And I will continue to support the UUPCC's life-changing mission of mutual partnership in any way I can.

In peace and partnership,

Rev. Roger Bertschausen  
UUPCC Executive Director

Dear Members & Friends,

I have enjoyed my time as Board Chair working with Roger. Along with his deep commitment to our mission and vision, he has brought his partnership experience, kindness, and humor to his leadership. He has helped many individuals and congregations renew their partnerships through the ReFresh program. He helped guide us in the transition of the travel program. He also co-formed the International Joint Working Group which has transformed the relationships among the UUPCC, the International Council of U/Us, and the UU Association.

In consideration of the conversations underway with the International Collaboration Group, the Board of Directors has decided to hire an Interim Executive Director. We will share more information on this in the coming weeks. I believe this is a critical moment for the organization, and a one-year Interim Executive Director will help continue the daily operations while working with the staff to create virtual programming and partnership experiences. With their help and guidance, the Board will be able to focus more fully on the exploration and imagining of how we might evolve as an organization.

I will surely miss working closely with Roger, and I am happy that one of our congregations in transition will benefit from his gifts.

In faith,  
Morgan McLean  
UUPCC Board President