

Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council



2011

*Louis C. Cornish “Living the Mission” Award  
for Outstanding Contributions to International Partnership*

PRESENTED BY THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL TO

**The Reverend Gretchen Thomas**

One of the first North American UUs to visit Transylvania following the 1989 revolution, Gretchen has been a stalwart from the earliest days of the partner church movement. Living in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia, she is a peripatetic international evangelist. In San Jose and Homoródszentmárton, she and József Kászoni created an inspirational model of partnership with the Francis David Youth House a lasting fruit of that partnership. Thereafter, Gretchen’s infectious enthusiasm encouraged Canadian churches to partner with our friends and co-religionists in Hungary. Serving on the PCC Executive Committee with a level head and the perspective of a religious educator, she designed the networker system, served on the Partner Matching Committee, and continues to serve on the Religious Education Committee.

Her new book, *Walking in Others’ Shoes: Stories from the Early Years of the Partner Church Movement* documents our history and inspires our future.

An itinerant preacher and parishioner in Paris and Melbourne, in pulpits and pews across the globe, Gretchen has enlarged and strengthened the partnership movement. Gretchen Thomas walks our global talk, personifies the hopeful possibilities, and exemplifies a life of international engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Van Duizend".

Richard Van Duizend, Board Chair • June 2011