

March 19, 2010

Dear Members and Friends,

Yes, it is TRUU.

For long-time Members and new and old Friends, this is a very exciting time. We are launching a new and revitalized effort to plant the Unitarian Universalist tradition in our Valley.

TRUU, Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist is now a reality, after nearly two years of experimentation and evaluation.

This letter summarizes the transition from the Glenwood-Springs based UUCGS to the new TRUU. This was accomplished at a special meeting of the voting members of UUCGS (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Glenwood Springs) on Sunday, March 14.

It was decided by unanimous voice votes:

1. To recombine the Glenwood Springs and Mid-Valley strands into a newly-named group with one Program Committee, and to be led as soon as possible by UU professionals
2. To have as our **Mission Statement**: “To provide a vibrant and sustainable spiritual institution that is a caring and open-minded community dedicated to the exploration of ethics, values, life choices, and social justice, and is a springboard for personal and societal transformation.”
3. To change our name to “**Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist**” (TRUU).
4. To adopt a set of **goals** by which we can implement our Mission Statement. These goals are stated later in this note, and together with our Mission Statement will form the basis for the upcoming pledge campaign.

Our new **LOGO**, designed by Cathy Schermer and approved by the Board of Trustees is:



This logo has the elements of the UU Chalice, Mt. Sopris, and two rivers. The symbolism of the two rivers clasping each other can be representative of the rejoining of the Glenwood Springs and Mid-Valley strands, and to symbolize inclusiveness for residents of area of the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers, and their tributaries.

At this meeting, **new board members** Thelma Zabel, Sue Coyle (Secretary), and Kathy Feinsinger were introduced. The remainder of the Board is comprised of Bill Spence (President), Mike Schermer, Cathy Schermer, and Joanne Clements.

The Board will appoint a **Program Committee** for the coming year, which will likely include many members from the two existing program committees. The Program Committee will work closely with the Board and have duties that include establishing an active web site for TRUU, coordinating the Sunday services, preparing advertising, and preparing the Sunday bulletins. The Board, with the participation of the Program Committee, will select a meeting site for next year.

GOALS. These goals will help us to implement our new mission statement, which, again, reads: “To provide a vibrant and sustainable spiritual institution that is a caring and open-minded community dedicated to the exploration of ethics, values, life choices, and social justice, and is a springboard for personal and societal transformation.”

These goals are:

A. Short Term:

1. Professional ministry: two visiting UU ministers each month for August, 2010 -- May 2011.
2. Inspirational music program
3. Stable meeting location in the mid-valley corridor, with minimal set-up and tear-down, a kitchen, and RE space.
4. Third meeting/month, to be lay-led and using UU-developed program materials
5. Active outreach to increase congregational growth and vitality
6. Paid RE Director using UU educational materials for youth and adult programs

B. Longer Term

1. Mid-term paid half time minister, as soon as possible, perhaps for the church year 2011 – 2012.
2. Full-time minister and a vigorous UU program, as soon as possible.

The Mission Statement and Goals will be finalized for our pledge drive at a Board meeting on Wednesday, March 24. This meeting will be held at 5 PM at the home of Sue Coyle. Any suggestions for modifications to either the Mission

Statement or the Goals should be sent to a Board member before Wednesday's meeting. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN. To fulfill our Mission Statement and to achieve our stated goals, we need to invest in our future. To this end, we want to raise \$70,000 for the coming year. We think this is feasible. Our campaign co-chairs are Cathy and Mike Schermer and Ed Perregaux is our campaign consultant. You will be hearing more about this campaign in the weeks between now and May 1.

Approximately 30 persons attended Sunday's meeting. Those voting were long-time members of UUCGS, many of whom have also attended mid-Valley strand services. Newer regularly-attending friends of the mid-Valley and Glenwood Springs strands have not yet been asked to join and thus were not voting. We discussed our overall mailing list of about 100 persons, all of whom will be contacted regarding these changes and contacted during the pledge campaign. We will purchase a new Membership Book, have current members sign anew, and encourage our friends to become members of TRUU. We will have a Saturday afternoon meeting on what it means to be a UU, with the history of our movement and what membership in TRUU can do for you and for us.

I hope that our efforts are exciting to you. The Board encourages your donations of time, money, and ideas to help us move forward together. We need your help with the Program Committee and to help us with a successful pledge drive. If you wish to participate in this way, please contact any Board member.

Yours for an increased UU presence in our area,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Bill Spence
President, Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist