

Erik Walker Wikstrom

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Work Experience

Worship and Music Resources Director Unitarian Universalist Association Staff, 2008-present
(Boston, MA)

- "Discover, develop, and disseminate the resources needed to deepen the worship life of our congregations"
- design and implement both an expansion and a re-envisioning of the UUA's WorshipWeb, learning appropriate new technologies as needed
- facilitate peer relationships exploring music and worship innovation
- develop training opportunities
- serve as clearinghouse for "best practices" around music and worship
- network and collaborate with various offices and departments within the UUA structure
- liaison with the UUMN Board
- manage the WAMR office budget

Senior Minister First Parish Brewster, 2006-2008 (Brewster, MA)

- Provide spiritual direction, guidance, and leadership to a congregation of nearly 500 members
- Supervise a staff of eight
- Train, coordinate, and supervise the Worship Weavers' Guild
- Facilitate weekly worship services and special celebrations
- Develop and facilitate adult education and exploration opportunities
- Support and encourage the work of committees, task groups, etc. (aka "institutional pastoral care")
- Lead the Advancement Team
- Develop new programming to fulfill our mission and ministry
- Represent FPB in the wider community

Pastor First Universalist Church, 1995-2006 (Yarmouth, ME)

- As above, for a congregation of roughly 200 members

Ministerial Intern First Parish Church (Concord, MA)

Desktop Publisher Educational Development Center (Newton, MA)

- Created brochures, flyers, journals, books, and other materials.

Sculptor, mask maker Walker Studios (Waltham, MA)

Freelance Clown Minister Creative Celebrations / S. D. Circus (NY)

- Designed and implemented workshops, worship, and performances for churches and schools in New England

Various Positions Camping Program, NY Conference of UMC (NY)

- Developed programming for two summer camps—all ages (specialty: drama)
- Trained and supervised program staff
- Worked as everything from dishwasher to Assistant Director

Denominational and Community Activities

Convened, Video Ministry Brain Trust (a UUA working group)

Member, Council for Cross-Cultural Engagement

Member, Planning Group for Opening and Closing Worship, GA 2010, 2009

Member, Skinner House Editorial Board

Liaison, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network Board

Member, Ballou Channing District Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association

Produced and hosted "Speaking of Spirit," a weekly half-hour radio show described as, "an alternative to conservative Christian radio" on WMPG in Portland, Maine

Member, Northeast District Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association

- Good Offices person
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Editor of "Viewpoints," newsletter of the NED

Member, Greater-Yarmouth Ecumenical Council

- President
- Vice President

Volunteer On-Call Chaplain, Maine Medical Center

Initiated the interfaith effort "From the ashes . . . building bridges of hope" which developed partnership relationships between the churches in the greater-Yarmouth area and the Butler Chapel A.M.E., an African-American church in Orangeburg, S.C. which was destroyed by arson in 1995.

Education

Harvard Divinity School (Cambridge, MA) *M. Div.*

- Academic focus on world religions, and comparative and practical spirituality
- Student Ministry—First Parish in Lincoln, MA
- C.P.E.—Brigham and Women's Hospital, MA

SUNY at Binghamton (Binghamton, NY) *B. A. (Sociology)*

Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY) *Majored in theater and philosophy*

Advanced Training

Edgebrook Grief, Trauma, and Loss Workshop (Alfred, NY)
Three years as participant; one year on staff

New Visions for the Long Pastorate (Colorado Springs, CO)
An Alban Institute training

Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation (Bethesda, MD)
Spiritual Guidance Program

Church Management (Yarmouth, ME)

Self-directed study of church management literature

Clergy Symposium on Domestic Violence (Concord, MA)

Clergy Sexual Misconduct Workshop (Cambridge, MA)

Walking Meditation (Washington, DC)

with Tich Nhat Hanh

Zen Intensive (Mt. Tremper, NY)

at Zen Mountain Monastery

Fire Eating (Ithaca, NY)

with the Rev. Margie Brown

Published Writings

Books

Serving With Grace: lay leadership as a spiritual practice

(Skinner House Books, May 2010)

Spirit in Practice: ten workshops for Unitarian Universalist adults a Tapestry of Faith curriculum
(The Unitarian Universalist Association, July 2009)

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritpractice>

Simply Pray: a modern spiritual practice to deepen your life

(Skinner House Books, February 2005)

Teacher, Guide Companion: rediscovering Jesus in a secular world

(Skinner House Books, October 2003)

Anthologies

Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism: contemporary essays, Kathleen Rolenz, ed.

(Skinner House Books, Jan. 2006) "An Old Friend"

Everyday Spiritual Practice: simple pathways for enriching your life, Scott Alexander, ed.

(Skinner House Books, 1999) "Prayer"

Articles, essays

"Jesus and the Modern Seeker" *UU World*, Vol. XVIII No. 1 (January/February 2004)

"Unitarian Universalism: the Grand Experiment," a 10-part series *First Days Record* (Jan-Dec 1997)

Recent Editorials

"Do We Still Believe in Miracles?" *On Faith* (February 19, 2010)

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/02/do_we_still_believe_in_miracles.html

"Obama and Exceptional Humility" *On Faith* (December 9, 2009)

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2009/12/obama_and_exceptional_humility.html

"Would Jesus Watch Reality TV?" *On Faith* (September 4, 2009)

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2009/09/would_jesus_watch_reality_tv.html/