

New York State Convention of Universalists
191th Annual Meeting
October 20-21, 2017

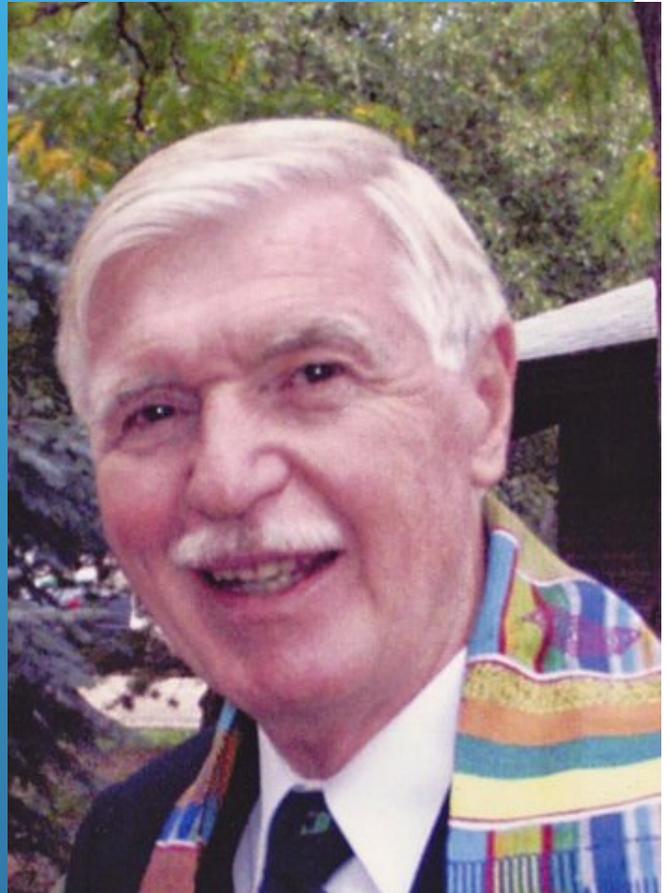
Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Richard Gilbert

Richard S. Gilbert served 44 years in the Unitarian Universalist ministry, including 32 years at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. He retired in 2005.

He is the author of the *Building Your Own Theology* adult religious education series, as well as *In the Holy Quiet of This Hour*, a book of meditations. Gilbert serves as President of Interfaith Impact of NY State. He does guest preaching, leads social justice workshops, and is working on a book about the religious life of Susan B. Anthony. He lives in Rochester with Joyce, his wife of 55 years. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Gilbert received an

M. Div. from St. Lawrence University Theological School, a D. Min from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and honorary doctorates from Starr King, Meadville Lombard and St. Lawrence University.



“Climate? Change?”

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

Presented with the Hudson Mohawk UU Cluster

All Unitarian Universalists are warmly invited to attend

[Registration information will be posted at nyscu.org](http://nyscu.org)



Annual Meeting/Conference Fee: \$25 pre-register, \$30 at the door;

Driving directions at <http://albanyuu.org/directions/>

Housing: Marriott Towne Place Suites, 22 Holland Ave., Albany 518-860-1500

Rate is \$109/night if reserved by October 1, 2017. Mention OCTR for group rate.

Home hospitality is available for \$40/night. Please email or call office@albanyuu.com or 518-463-7135 for details

Friday Tourism: **Official Visitors Guide to Albany NY & The Capital Region - Albany.com** www.albany.com/travel/

**NYSCU Conference and Annual Meeting,
Presented with the Hudson Mohawk UU Cluster**

**Friday Evening Entertainment: 7:00 to 8:30, at the First
UU Society of Albany (FUUSA)**

Join us for refreshments, fellowship and entertainment –
featuring Dan Berggren (berggrenfolk.com)

Saturday Schedule at FUUSA:

8:00 Continental breakfast & registration

9:00 Opening worship

9:15 – 10:00 Keynote

10:00 - 10:30 Keynote Q&A

10:30 break

10:50 Business Meeting / HUUU Gathering

11:45 Lunch (vegetarian choices provided)

12:45 First workshop session

1:45 Break

2:00 Second workshop session

3:00 Closing worship

3:15 Meeting adjourns

Opening Worship: Hudson Mohawk UU Cluster

Keynote: “Ruminations on the Meaning of Change”

“We were made for times like this.” Richard S. Gilbert

The ancient Greek Heraclitus of Ephesus sent a message to the ages when he said the only constant is change. Earth’s changing climate is a natural demonstration of this cosmic truth. Both Barack Obama and Donald Trump ran on a “change” platform, with drastically different outcomes. Democracy as a philosophy is based on the possibility of change. Unitarian Universalism as a faith is grounded in the idea that religious growth is a lifetime endeavor. What does change mean to us and how do we deal with it in 2017?

WORKSHOPS -- Session I:

“This is What Democracy Looks Like”

What Is the Role of UUs in Social Change?

Using Interfaith Impact of NYS as a case study, *Dick Gilbert* leads a discussion of why and how UU congregations should be involved in changing society. Participants are urged to explore their own congregations’ strategy for building the Beloved Community.

**“Connecting Roots and Wings: Universalism
in the Eastern United States and Canada”**

When and how did Universalism rise and spread on the Eastern seaboard? What were the cultural trends then and now? Might there be connections to the rise in Universalist identification among many current Unitarian Universalists?

Joyce Gilbert, past president of NYSCU and 5th generation New York Universalist; Rev. Carol, S. Haag, Murray Grove Stewardship Committee Chair

Joyce and Dick Gilbert are honorary co-chairs of the 250th anniversary celebration of John Murray landing on the shores of Murray Grove, Lakota Harbor, NJ, planned for the fall of 2020.

“A New Kind of Cathedral”

In *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*, C.G. Jung wrote of a childhood religious crisis that culminated in a bizarre if not blasphemous vision of God atop the magnificent cathedral in Basel. This event had an enormous impact on Jung and his relationship with his father, a stern Lutheran minister. Their dialogue illustrates the ways that religious dogma can create a barrier to religious experience.

Margaret Maguire Davis is a member of the UU Society of Oneonta, a past Treasurer of NYSCU, and a former Trustee of the C.G. Jung Foundation.

“Death (and Rebirth?) of Sunday School”

presenters: Leah Purcell and Julie Rigano

This workshop is designed for Religious Education chairs and leadership/teachers.

WORKSHOPS -- Session II:

“Getting Real: Power, Culture, and Race”

This workshop will explore the ways unarticulated, unexplored, often unseen cultural differences trip up our work for racial justice. When we don’t know that we don’t know, we are particularly vulnerable to making mistakes, hurting each other, and being bewildered about what happened to all our good intentions.

Evin Carvill-Ziemer is Congregational Life Staff for Central East Region.

**“FAITH+WORKS: Finding and embracing
our role in the heart of the community”**

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), community listening, and the First UU of Essex's shift to an outward facing Urban Ministry (The HUUB) in a changing faith climate and what it has meant to make the pivot to this type of ministry over the past few years.

Charles Wirene is Managing Director of The HUUB from First UU Church of Essex County, Orange, NJ; Greg Giacobbe is the church administrator and board secretary

“Welcoming Worship”

Unitarian Universalists are called to draw the circle of welcome ever wider, knowing “No one is outside the circle of love.” But how welcoming is our worship to people of color? We will examine the presumptions of sameness our very Protestant worship makes and how to decenter whiteness in the precious hour we spend together each week.

Rev. Kimberley Debus is a community minister based in the Capital Region, inspiring congregations to create artful and art-full worship, congregational life, and public witness.

“Gathering on Social Justice”

Follow-up to Dick Gilbert's presentation on “Climate? Change?” and discussion of common concerns and local actions

Closing Worship: Hudson Mohawk UU Cluster