

New York State Convention of Universalists
Bicentennial Annual Meeting: *200 Years of Love at the Center*
October 24-26, 2025

HOST CONGREGATION:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton; 3 ½ East Main Street, Canton, NY 13617

HOUSING:

Holiday Inn Express, 6000 US Highway 11, Canton, NY 13617

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION OF EVENTS:

(All events will take place of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, unless otherwise indicated)

Friday, October 24

5:00 PM Church opens for informal welcome and gathering. Take a tour of the church, and/or the St. Lawrence Center for History and Culture (located next to the church) ***Social Room and Romer Room***

6:00 PM Lecture/Q&A: “The Universalist Church, the founding of St. Lawrence University and the Theological School.” Joseph T. Jockel, Frank F. Piskor Professor of Political Science and Canadian Studies, St. Lawrence University ***Sanctuary***

6:45-9:00 PM: Informal dinner and “UU Spirit Night!” Meet and greet other UU’s, and wear your congregation’s shirt or other UU garb. ***Social Room and Romer Room***

Saturday, October 25

8:15 AM Registration, coffee, delegate credentials ***Social Room***

9:00 AM Opening Worship: Rev. James Galasinski, UU Canton; Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President; Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, UUA Board of Trustees ***Sanctuary***

9:15 AM Keynote Address: 200 Years of Love at the Center ***Sanctuary***

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President; Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, UUA Board of Trustees. As we gather to celebrate Universalist history with NYSCU and the UU Church of Canton, we consider how love has always been a Universalist theological imperative. How is that love evident in our UU Congregations today?

10:00- 10:30 AM Keynote Dialogue ***Sanctuary***

10:30-10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM NYSCU 199th Business meeting ***Sanctuary***

11:45 AM Bicentennial Celebration and Lunch ***Social Room and Romer Room***

1:00 PM Workshop Session #1 *Sanctuary*

Leading with Love at the Center: Since love has always been at the theological center of Universalism, let's explore ways to allow that love to carry us forward. Rev. Sofia's book, *Love at the Center* will be cited as a resource, and books will be available at the gathering.

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President; Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, UUA Board of Trustees

1:45-200 Break

2:00 Workshop Session #2

- A. "Good Trouble" Roundtable: How are our congregations showing up to promote justice, equity, and compassion in these times? Any specific acts of resistance? Cassandra Montenegro (CER), facilitator ***Sanctuary***
- B. Stewardship Roundtable: What practices has your congregation found to be effective in today's stewardship campaigns? What challenges do we face with stewardship? Ann Rhody, NYSCU President; Former Finance Chair, First Universalist Church of Rochester, facilitator ***Romer Room***

3:00 Closing Worship- Rev. James Galasinski, UU Canton *Sanctuary*

3:15 PM Rest, Recovery, Soul Feeding Options

- Quarry Tour, led by Wil Rivers, SUNY Canton Professor. An easy and short walk to the historic quarry site where the grey marble that surrounds and supports the UU Canton church building was quarried at the end of the 19th century. Appropriate dress and shoes for the weather is recommended. It will involve walking on pasture and through forest. Meet at 595 Miner St Rd, Canton. Parking on the site. Look for signs.
- 200 Years of Progressive Faith: Exhibit at St. Lawrence County Center for History & Culture. Located next to the UU Church of Canton on 3 East Main St, Canton, NY. Former site of the Universalist Parsonage.
- Universalist Walking Tour of St. Lawrence University (3:45 to 4:45). St. Lawrence University was started by Universalists. Some of this history is preserved in its walls. We will tour Richardson Hall, the oldest building on campus, the beautiful Gunnison Memorial Chapel which has a window dedicated to Universalism, and Atwood Hall, the last home of the Theological School. Led by the Rev. James Galasinski *Note: Only one of these buildings is accessible to wheelchair users. The two other buildings will include some stair use. The total walk will be about ¼ of a mile.* Meet at west end of Vilas Hall Parking Lot (16 Romoda Drive Canton, NY 13617)
- Explore the town on your own, or rest at hotel.

5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Dinner on your own (see the list provided by the host congregation)

7:00 PM-9:00 PM Dessert reception and coffee house ***Social Room*** : Come enjoy fellowship, sweets, and music as we continue the celebration together!

Sunday, October 26

10:30 AM Worship service and farewell, UU Canton *Sanctuary*