

Updated Congregational Handbook Now Available Online

The new 2005 Web edition of The Congregational Handbook is online now at <http://www.uua.org/cde/handbook/> and contains updated and key information from within the UUA (including all program staff groups) and from outside (from places such as the Alban Institute, the UU Service Committee, Faith Communities Today, and the Red Cross).

There is no book or printed document to accompany this edition it is solely Web based and can be updated with current information as needed. Links that went to the previous edition of The Congregational Handbook now point to the same topics in the new edition.

The Congregational Handbook comprises a detailed table of contents entirely made up of links to services covering a wide range of congregational needs and aspirations. The links point to the best and most current sources we can offer congregations and religious professionals, including the following types of sites:

- Web pages with program information
- Resource documents with choices of processes and techniques for congregational health and growth, and
- Contact people for needs requiring facilitation or discussion.

Throughout the Congregational Handbook are woven the mindsets and methods of both growth and anti-oppression work. For example, in Part I for new congregations, titled “Becoming a Congregation” the first three subheadings are “New Congregation Development” (is a process resource document), “Intend to Start a New Congregation: Contact Your District Staff” (is a link to staff), and “Openness of Your Congregation's Programming to the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Each Person” (promotes anti-oppression program awareness and planning). The third of these links points to Identity Based Ministries where people starting up a new congregation will be aware of being welcoming to persons from historically marginalized groups.

There are also substantial sections on congregational committees, professional staff of congregations, and outreach.

Please let us know if you find the Web edition of The Congregational Handbook helpful or have thoughts or questions for us, here in Congregational Services.

Susanna Whitman
Growth Services Administrator
Congregational Services
Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
phone 617/948-4270
fax 617/742-0321
email swhitman@uua.org