

Demolition of the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern is Completed

On December 15, 2006, the remaining structure of the Rock Tavern NY meetinghouse was demolished by Taylor Recycling, known for its attempts to recycle nearly all demolition debris possible. In addition to the structure, the concrete slab, foundation footings, and foundation plantings were removed. All that remains on the site are the blacktopped parking lot, the parking lot lights, a memorial stone taken from the wall of the former Church of our Father: Unitarian in Newburgh, the memorial garden, a peace pole, the well, the septic tank and system, two benches, a barbecue grill, and a shed.

Two task forces are busily at work: The first is constructing a new mission statement to submit to the congregation for its approval. The second is investigating possibilities of buying new or rebuilding on the presently owned site, as well as exploring the various types of construction we may want to utilize in building a new meetinghouse. At this point, there is much interest in "building a green sanctuary," to the extent it is financially feasible. A third task force, for fund raising, is scheduled to kick into gear in February to begin a capital campaign, raising money through pledges, charitable benefits, and grants for financing a new meetinghouse.



Top: Demolition of the burned out facility in progress. *Bottom:* The Rev. Jim Bridges watches as the demolition is completed.

Lastly, donations from various congregations within the District as well as continentally continue to arrive. The present total exceeds \$27,000. Several benefits have been and are planned by friends, including one at the UU Church in Middletown (NY) on December 31 and one at the UU Congregation of Central Nassau (Garden City NY) on [January 21](#).

The Rev. Jim Bridges
UU Congregation at Rock Tavern