

## **District Board Appoints Andrea Lerner as District Executive**

We are delighted to announce that Andrea Lerner has accepted the role of District Executive for the UU District of Metro NY. After careful consideration, and over two years of experience with policy governance, the Metro NY Board of Trustees has decided to replace the "executive team" structure in the District with a "sole executive" format. We believe that this move, which is consistent with policy governance, will clarify lines of responsibility and accountability and will enhance the ability of our District staff to deliver essential services to our congregations. We also believe, based upon direct observation of her work and extensive conversations with her, that Andrea is the ideal person to fill this position.

Since last July, Andrea has served as our Acting District Executive. Previously, she was our Program Consultant for four years, serving in that role as one-half of our executive team. As District Executive, Andrea will report to the board as the chief executive officer for the District and will direct all District programs and services. She brings to the position an impressive combination of proven leadership skills, commitment to our faith, familiarity with our congregations and our leaders, and knowledge of policy governance.

Andrea, her husband, Ira, and their four children live in eastern Pennsylvania, where Ira is a volunteer for the Joseph Priestly District. Andrea is a graduate of Penn State University and attended graduate school in psychology at Fordham University. Before joining the UUA District Staff, she served three congregations, ranging in size from 250 to 700 members, as Director of Religious Education and also served as a mentor to several religious educators from small congregations. She served on the board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) for five years and on LREDA's Professional Standards Task Force and its Integrity Team, which worked to dismantle institutional racism and oppression. She has been a UUA Renaissance trainer for nine years and was also trained to facilitate the Covenanting process. Andrea has completed the Alban training course, Consulting for Vital Congregations, as well as the Healthy Congregations training course. She has also been a leader in designing and implementing a pilot regional project with three other districts (Joseph Priestly, St. Lawrence, and Ohio-Meadville), in partnership with the UUA, that is focusing on ways to share expertise across district boundaries to improve congregational life.

Those wanting to send notes to Andrea may do so at [alerner@uua.org](mailto:alerner@uua.org).

In peace,

Jerry Muntz, Metro NY District President  
Rev. Harlan Limpert, UUA Director for District Services