

Douglas Zelinski Joins District Staff as Acting Program Consultant

We are delighted to announce that Douglas Zelinski has accepted the role of Acting Program Consultant for Growth and Leadership Development in the Metro NY District for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Doug will join the staff September 16, 2007.

Doug will join Andrea Lerner, MNY's Acting District Executive, to ensure that the varied needs of congregations and professional and lay leaders continue to be met in this transitional year. Doug will be available to work with congregations around growth, leadership development, visioning, strategic planning, and small group ministry. He will also play a major role in the coordination of the training and facilitation of the new consultant teams that are planned to have an ongoing impact on the District. Doug's expertise with research and evaluation will serve the District's initiative to gather baseline information on the health of our congregations.

Doug and Andrea will also work cooperatively with the staff of three other UU districts (Joseph Priestly, St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville) in a pilot regional group in partnership with the UUA, focusing on ways to share expertise across district boundaries to improve congregational life. Doug recently served as a member of the Design Team for the partnership's first joint project, the UU Leadership Team Institute (UULTI), an intensive week-long workshop with five "leadership tracks" or areas of concentration. Doug also co-led the Small Group Ministry track at UULTI with Joan van Becelaere, Ohio-Meadville District's new District Executive.

Doug and his partner, Steve Schack, currently reside in Columbus, Ohio, where Doug is immediate past president of the First UU Church of Columbus. He brings his expertise and perspective as an experienced lay leader in a large congregation as well as his 20 years of professional experience in nonprofit organizations to his work with us.

In the coming months, the Metro NY District Board and Harlan Limpert will make decisions regarding long-term staffing for the District.

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