

Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

October 2021

Ministering to the
Metropolitan Association
Churches and Ministers

CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT &
COMMUNICATION

EADMIN@METROUCCNYC.ORG

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The crisp fall wind sweeps away sunny summer's smile with a fresh vibe of its own. The sights, sounds and scents of autumn reminds me that no matter how bad things can be or get, God is still large, in charge and in control. My mama used to have to constantly remind me that God never makes a mistake. It has taken years of setups, setbacks, failures, and triumph, to learn to put my trust in the One who will not and cannot fail.

That is the spirit in which I summon this great Metropolitan Association, to the 2021 Fall Meeting. This is a meeting that calls us to witness God "Doing A New Thing", in us, for us, with us, to us and through us.

The Board of Directors, Metro Committees and Metro Staff are committed to equip our Clergy and Congregations with the support, resources, creativity, and compassion needed to accomplish the purpose for which God has called us into existence to perform.

Look for the **Call to Meeting** notice giving registration details, as we welcome the gifted, anointed, dynamic spiritual leader, **Bishop Yvette Flunder**, as our keynote speaker. We will also be presenting a vibrant new ministry into our Association. Yes, Metro is on the move! We have been called to do greater works. We are #MetroStrong.

Peace....
Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson



Racial Justice Seminar @ The Scarsdale Congregational Church

On Friday October 15th and Saturday October 16th SCC will hold a series of 'Sacred Conversations' led by **Nurturing Justice** (via Zoom) to examine the *construction of race and racism, the development of white supremacist ideology,*

and the *history of the Church's role in perpetuating racism*. As the movement for racial justice continues to grow, evolve, and plant seeds of transformation within the united Church of Christ, we are committing/re-committing ourselves to the work of building the beloved community.

THE METRO ASSOCIATION WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR MINISTRY!

We are planning a Ministry Fair to highlight the work you are doing in your community! Is there a ministry within your congregation that excites and inspires you? Is there a ministry that serves the community in excellence? We want to know about it! Send us a 3-5 minute video that we can share with the Association. We want to show off and show out to the Glory of God! This Ministry Fair will help you highlight what your congregation is doing in the community! Tell us about your ministries that are Spirit inspired and so we can **SPOTLIGHT YOUR MINISTRY**, spread the word and sow a seed into the ministry! Send short video clips to Our Executive Director, Rev. Kris Watson at eadm@metrouccnyc.org

THE METRO BOARD IS STILL ON A MISSION TO CONNECT OUR CONGREGATIONS WITH EACH OTHER!

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For World Communion Sunday Safe Haven UCC and the Church of the Living Hope partnered together in hybrid worship! It was an amazing service that was life giving and affirming of our mutual ministry! **Is your church interested in partnering with two other congregations to share worship on a Sunday?** This can be virtual, in person or hybrid! This is a perfect opportunity to work with your fellow clergy and lay leaders to plan a joint worship service to the Glory of God! Reach out to our Executive Director for ideas or thoughts of clusters of congregations that you can partner with!
Eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

The Association Board is diligently working to find ways to strengthen our ability to help our clergy and our congregations! We will be offering UCC Polity, Boundary Awareness and other educational opportunities for our clergy and laity. Stay connected for more information on these offerings!

HELP US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR ASSOCIATION BY REMITTING YOUR ANNUAL CHURCH DUES NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2021. MAIL CHECKS TO: METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION, UCCNY AT

102-19 34TH AVENUE, CORONA, NY 11368

OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE DONATIONS PAGE AT

[Donation \(eservicepayments.com\)](http://eservicepayments.com)

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH! BE A BLESSING TO YOUR PASTOR! PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR!



Metro Spiritual Life Committee offers the CLERGY CLINIC

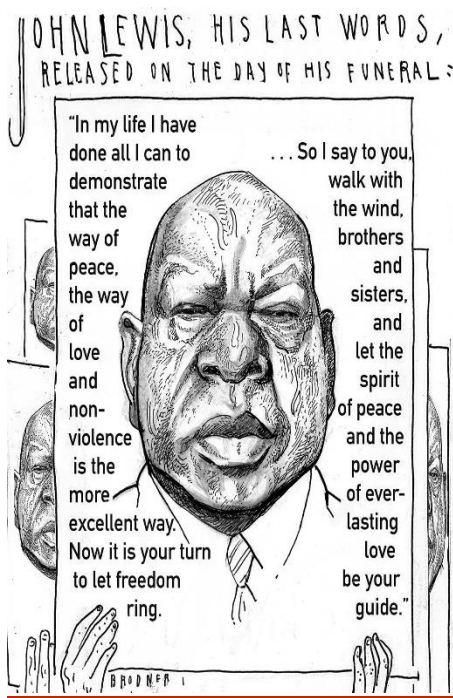
The purpose of the Clergy Clinic is to keep clergy connected to the Association, assist clergy with navigating the challenges of ministry and enhance growth. The SLPC Support for Pastors, Clergy and Lay, partners with the Committee on Ministry to provide essential avenues of communication and prayer. The team: *Rev. Erv Graves, Rev. Carolyn C. Blair, Rev. Dr. Floyd R. Blair*, are available to ensure that your needs are met. **We are asking that all pastors and clergy update their information for the directory as requested by the Metro Office.**

NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

**Confidential conversations for those who require prayer, supportive ears, resources and tools for church stress, family stress and personal stress. (Referrals available for additional support). Individual conferences fulfill Metro Association clergy continuing education requirements (Referrals are available for additional support). Contact us @ metroclergy@gmail.com*

If you need prayer and support contact our Metro chaplains

- Dr. Anesta Vannoy-Kwame
disasterchap@metrouccnyc.org
- Rev. Erv Graves
metrochap@metrouccnyc.org



OFFERINGS FROM THE PRACTICAL RESOURCE CENTER:

[Finding Intentional Community Online: The Story Of Queeranteen Camp](#)

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leaders: Drew Stever, Hazel Salazar Davidson

The internet has a lot to offer - both good and bad. In the last couple decades, many communities have had to negotiate how they incorporate and leave out technology from their spaces. How can it enhance the experience? How can it take away? What many faith communities have forgotten is that faith is bigger than a building, or specific location. It expands beyond our own borders and meets us where we are at - whether we are in our bedroom, living room, or garage office, on our screens, in our hands, on our desks.

Rev. Drew Stever - they/he

Pastor Drew serves as Lead Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Hollywood, CA. He came out as transgender one month before the 2016 presidential election and has found comfort in the freedom of the gospel ever since. While serving as intern at St. Paul's

Lutheran Church in Santa Monica from 2018-2019, Drew launched "Queer Church". Queer Church is a worship service dedicated to uplifting and centering the voices and experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community. In the summer of 2020, Pastor Drew and Pastor Hazel co-founded Queeranteen Camp. Queeranteen Camp was a virtual community dedicated to the wellness and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing isolation (especially in a pandemic.) Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota and a graduate of Luther Seminary, Drew now lives in Thousand Oaks, CA and is an avid front yard birdwatcher.

Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson - she/her/ella

Pastor Hazel serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Authentic Diversity, Inclusive Community and Service in the Sierra Pacific synod. She immigrated from Costa Rica at the young age of three. She was raised in California, and was educated in the San Gabriel Valley. She is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and PLTS where she completed her Lutheran Year through TEEM. Pastor Hazel Salazar-Davidson lives in Thousand Oaks, CA with her family. In her spare time Hazel enjoys painting, drawing and working with clay.

[Getting and Keeping Talented, Engaged Volunteers](#)

Tuesday October 19, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Judy Urban

Learn about the challenges of getting volunteers to use their talents in your faith community and how you can create an effective system model. We'll cover ways to help people identify their gifts, collecting and using the data, and the importance of position descriptions for each ministry. Ms. Urban will outline an annual recruitment plan and suggest ways to involve the entire congregation in a celebration of ministries.

Judy Urban is an experienced practitioner in building systems that invite, support, train, and show appreciation to congregation members in using their talents and strengths in the volunteer ministries of the faith community. She created a system composed of over 2600 volunteer positions in a large suburban church in the Midwest. Judy has over 15 years working as an independent consultant to congregations across the United States in building personalized systems of ministry support, utilizing best practices of volunteer management. She has mentored new directors of Shared Ministry. Judy has given workshops, seminars, and presentations to many synods and dioceses, as well as at the International Stewardship Conference, Minnesota Association of Volunteer Administrations conferences, and several regional Nurses Associations. Ms Urban has published a

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book entitled *New Life Through Shared Ministry, Moving from Volunteering to Mission.*

[Sustaining Faith Online](#)

Thursday, October 28

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Natalie Perkins

Join us for strategies to help you sustain a consistent and life-giving presence online. We'll look at ways to simplify and target your online content, but we'll also be considering how to integrate your online work into your life and that of your community of faith.

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins serves as *Digital Minister and Director of Digital Ministry at Middle Collegiate Church, helping to build and hold its online church and community. She received her Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2015 and was awarded the Karen Ziegler Feminist Preaching Prize. She became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ denomination in 2020.*

Natalie also serves as a chaplain/spiritual life advisor for NYU Global Spiritual Life and was recently awarded Chaplain of the Year. As a theologian, she is the co-founder of the Tanho Center where she lectures and works with extracanonical texts. She also works with the Westar Institute to bridge the gap between religious scholarship and the general public.

Additionally, Natalie is a professional writer, musical

theatre performer, and composer. Her album, Songs of Your Truth is available on any major music streaming and/or purchasing platform.

COVID IS STILL A RISK!

Don't want to risk going to the restaurant? Here is a nice light early fall recipe by our own Vice Moderator Joycelyn Howell (she is a caterer).

Baked Chicken and Rice Casserole

- 1 Chicken (or 3lbs cut up)
- 1 t. Salt 1 t. Ground black pepper
- 3 t. No-Salt Seasoning (see bottom) 1 T.
- All-purpose flour
- 4 c. Cream of Celery Soup
- 2 c. water
- 1 Medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery chopped
- 4 T. unsalted butter (½ stick)
- 1 c. White rice, washed

- Method: Preheat oven to 375*
1. Wash chicken, pat dry. Season chicken thoroughly with the salt pepper and No-salt mixture. Dust the chicken with the flour
 2. Place the chicken in a large baking dish with a lid and add the cream of celery soup and water. Add the onion and celery to the liquid in the pan along with the remaining 1 teaspoon No-salt and butter. Cover and bake for 30 minutes, then add the washed rice, mix well, cover and bake for 20 minutes more.
 3. Check the rice. It should be cooked through but with plenty of liquid remaining, thick and

soupy, not clumpy and sticky. Remove the lid and continue to bake until the chicken skin is browned, about 15 minutes more.

4. Remove from the oven and allow the chicken to rest for about 10 minutes or so, then remove the chicken from the dish and carve it (if not using pieces).

Place the carved chicken on top of the rice in the baking dish and serve hot from the dish.... Now, is that not good with some hot rolls and a small side salad? Mama thinks so!

No-Salt Seasoning 1 T. Sweet Paprika ¼ t. Smoked Paprika 1 ½ T. ground turmeric 1 T. Onion powder 1 T. Garlic Powder ¼ t. Ground black pepper 2 t. Sugar ½ t. Cornstarch *If you'd rather use seasoning salt, be my guest--but for those conscious of salt intake...try this!



GET VACCINATED!

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

westchestergov.com

[Website \(nassaucountyny.gov\)](http://nassaucountyny.gov)

**NEW YORK CITY NOW
REQUIRES PROOF OF
VACCINATION FOR INDOOR
DINING AND FITNESS**

October 2021

CLUBS FOR EVERYONE AGE 12 AND OVER!

SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE PELHAMS

Hurricane Ida Swamps Community Church of the Pelhams' Basement

The Metro Association has met twice in the past eight years in the downstairs Community Hall of the Community Church of the Pelhams. While never a charming room, it was functional.

Alas, not so now. Hurricane Ida sent up to a foot and a half of storm water into the basement, ruining many pieces of furniture, nursery school equipment, archery equipment, and sump pumps. The church has filled up four LARGE dumpsters with trash to be hauled away, and has done extensive cleanup for mold damage.

This all occurred just as the existing Building Steward stepped down to start his own restaurant (Pow Burger in New Rochelle... great place!!) and the new Steward, Carmen Price, hadn't as yet fully been oriented to her new responsibilities. Well, she got her feet wet, to be sure!

But thank God Carmen was more than up to the task of supervising cleanup. She needed someone to assist her, and church Moderator AnaMarie Flores came through. AnaMarie found us dumpsters and negotiated extra cleaning with the church's

new cleaning company (which also started only in late July). It was a perfect storm, but these two UCC women leaders stepped up. We are reminded of the line from the book of Esther: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

When asked how things were going with him and the church in this nearly post pandemic season, Pastor Noel said: I am preaching a sermon series on Moses, which is fun as I've never done anything significant on his life in my 42 years of ordained ministry before now. Pastor Asayo is teaching classes both for the online, self-directed study platform BeADisciple.com, and for Grace Theological Seminary (online course on mysticism). We alternate leading our Thursday evening Spiritual Growth Time.

WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION DOING?

Renewed engagement with lay leaders and members of our Churches. We are establishing a VOLUNTEER CORP! If you want to volunteer for any number of projects, reach out to our Executive Director, Rev. Kris Watson at 646-523-1936. There is a project with your name on it!

Planning for the fall meeting of the Association.

Planning a virtual fall Justice series.

Creating a comprehensive resource guide to wellness for Clergy and lay leaders through the Spiritual Life Committee.

Applying for grant opportunities to assist our churches to thrive and grow.

Communicating with churches and clergy via the Newsletter.

Preparing to offer a UCC Polity Class for clergy and lay leaders.

Working with congregations to bring them into the Association.

Continuing to support the ministers of the Association through our Committee on Ministry.

Updating our bylaws for presentation to the delegates.

PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION!

Spread the news of all that Metro Association is offering to its members, churches, and ministers!

Share this newsletter with your congregation!

Reach out to us to see how you can get involved and volunteer your time talent and treasure!

Do you have a bright idea or project for us to engage in? Develop the idea and share it by e mailing our Executive Director at eadmin@metronyucc.org

Does your church need pulpit supply? We have a diversity of ministers willing and able to help. Please reach out to eadmin@metronyucc.org or call Rev. Kris Watson on her cell at 646-523-1936.

JOB POSTINGS:

Music Minister for Broadway United Church of Christ

Broadway United Church of Christ is a small but dynamic congregation in Manhattan (New York City). We are a progressive church with a prophetic ministry and a congregation who is musically informed and engaged. Our tastes are quite diverse, and our highest priority is music that feeds our minds, challenges our values, and enlivens our souls. Located in a city of unlimited talent, our dream is for our next music director to help build a program, around a core group of professionals, that urban people will find compelling and attractive.

Responsibilities

- Assist the senior pastor and work with the staff in planning and executing all worship services.
- Ensure the choir and other special music is prepared to provide a well-executed, diverse, and inspiring experience for the congregation.
- Build a music/arts program that is an asset in attracting a diverse community who gathers to worship and scatters to serve.
- Recruit, equip, motivate, and supervise musicians and artists.
- Develop musical teams and ensembles for services.
- Utilize the arts, including drama, literature, graphics, and video, to enhance a comprehensive worship experience.
- Direct and coordinate special events as appropriate.

- Communicate faithfully with the senior pastor and staff.
- Participate in the life and ministry of the church.

Qualifications

- A spiritual person seeking faith through Christian traditions.
- Love and respect for a diverse community.
- Progressive values that passionately support an end to racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.
- Attested musical skills and competence.
- Ability to organize, coordinate, and motivate musicians and technical team members.
- Sense of humor and positive attitude.
- Strong collaborator with the rest of the staff and congregation.
- Dependable, responsible, self-motivated, and creative.
- Bachelor's degree in music or theology (Master's preferred).
- Minimum five years experience in a church-related setting preferred.

Musical Competencies

- Ability to produce music using a wide range of traditions including Christian hymnody and congregational song, but with a focus on contemporary and culturally diverse music.
- Ability to lead worship and train others as individual and team worship leaders.
- Capable of adapting, arranging, and sequencing music or at least supervising those who can do these tasks.

- Producing and directing special events, musicals, and programs.
- Experience with technical aspects of in-person, online and hybrid worship services. For example, knowledge and experience with A/V systems, video editing and live streaming, etc. is a plus.
- Knowledge of the arts and willingness to include them in creating a transformational worship experience.

Hours and compensation are negotiable based on the candidate's skills and availability.

BROADWAY UCC IS ALSO
LOOKING FOR **A PART TIME
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR.**
LOOK FOR A FULL JOB
DESCRIPTION IN FUTURE
COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUR
OFFICES.