

New York State Convention of Universalists 196th Annual Meeting:

Seeking Justice, Finding Joy • October 21 and 22, 2022

Host Congregation: First Universalist Church of Rochester, 150 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604

Housing: Holiday Inn Express, University Area, 717 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623 • 585-272-7800

Special Rate is \$139/\$149 for NYSCU

Friday evening, October 21

7:30-9:30 PM Informal welcome and refreshments, meet & greet *Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Meeting room*

Saturday, October 22 *First Universalist church of Rochester*

8:30am: Registration, coffee

9:00am: Opening Worship - *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

9:15am: **Keynote Address** **Immigration Front Line: Lessons in Resilience** *Sheila Starkey Hahn*

The address will begin with a brief summary of US immigration legislation and enforcement from 1985 to the present, followed by a review of current immigration policy under the Biden administration and the difficulty of backing away from restrictive immigration policies, once implemented. Ms. Hahn will describe the hope that emerges from despair, including friendships forged on the front line of fighting family detention, comradery enjoyed with 125,000 likeminded attorneys, and incremental victories along the way. She will recount personal stories of resilience of four of her clients and the lesson they have imparted: that the human instinct to live, love and thrive surmounts all obstacles.

10-10:30am: Keynote Dialogue

10:30-10:45am: Break

10:45am: Business meeting

11:45am: Lunch (*provided by the host congregation*)

12:30pm: **Workshop Session 1**

● **Growing Our Gardens, Growing Ourselves** *Petra Page-Mann, Fruition Seeds, Naples, NY*

What if our gardens grow us more than we grow them? Join us for an invitation to cultivate so much more than carrots, amplifying the beauty and abundance of us all for generations to come. Virtual presentation.

● **Bringing LGBTQIA+ Justice to UU Congregations** *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell, First Universalist*

We will gather to share ideas about what has been working well in our churches for welcoming LGBTQIA+ people and also to share challenges. How are transgender and gender non-conforming lives honored in our worship services? Our shared rituals? Our congregational life? Bring your experiences, stories, and struggles to share.

1:30-1:45pm: Break

1:45pm: **Workshop Session 2**

● **Dealing with Deniers- How to Counter Misinformation** *TBD, Union of Concerned Scientists*

How do we cope with the walls that develop when people refuse to accept factual information? When do we work to collaborate and find common ground, and how do we know it's time to move on?

● **First Universalist Initiative on Racial Equity (FIRE) in Rochester.** *FIRE team, First Universalist*

In the wake of uprisings following the death of George Floyd and local Rochesterian, Daniel Prude, activities to address inequities grew out of partnerships with community activists. Join us to learn some of the lessons learned, solutions implemented and hopes for the future that continue to be a part of our congregational fiber.

3:00pm: Closing Worship

3:15pm: Meeting adjourns