



Mark Mayfield <ferguson.mayfield@gmail.com>

Welcome to Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities: A Year of Learning and Connection

Megan Foley <MFoley@uua.org>

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To: Megan Foley <MFoley@uua.org>, Beth Casebolt <BCasebolt@uua.org>

Dear Small and Mighty Congregation,

We are so excited that you've registered your congregation for our year-long offering, *Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities: A Year of Learning and Connection for Smaller Congregations*. We on UUA staff who work with smaller congregations hope it will offer a lot of food for thought, good information, and strong connections, so you can find your work with your small and mighty congregation easier, more joyful and more impactful.

How will it work? Next week, you'll get an email with logon information and other details. Our first webinar will be via Zoom video conference software (see below for more on how to use Zoom) on **Wednesday, October 16th**. You can choose to attend at **7 pm Eastern**/4 pm Pacific, or at **7pm Pacific**/10 pm Eastern. We recommend gathering as a group to watch the webinar if at all possible; if not, you can share the link with those who can't make it and they can log on separately. We will record the session and will send the recording to the email on the registration (same as the email that received this letter) around the time of the weekend after the webinars. You can share the recording with anyone in your congregation who might benefit.

A word on Zoom: Zoom is a wonderful internet-based video conferencing platform that allows you to either connect by computer or by phone. You can check it out now, and download the software, at www.zoom.us. There is no charge to log onto our call, nor do you have to subscribe to Zoom to use it. If you are connecting by computer, you will just click the link to enter into the video call. If you need to join by phone, you will call the designated number. All this information will be sent to you 5-7 days before each webinar. It will help if you have a strong internet connection for the best experience; if you don't have a strong internet connection, you may want to plan to call in.

Who will be running the webinar? In October, the webinar will be led by [Rev. Sarah Schurr](#) from the Pacific Western Region and [Rev. Phil Lund](#) from the Mid-America Region. October's topic is **Smalls Making a Big Difference**. We'll hear from four different congregations: One has a bold new relationship with a neighboring big church; one was bold in their outreach to the homeless; one was bold in support of local immigrants; the fourth has been bold in creating model safety policy as well as outreach to new people. Join us to get ideas for how your congregation can be bold. (Invite your Board, your justice leaders, and folks who work on mission and purpose.)

The rest of the UUA team planning this year include [Rev. Megan Foley](#), [Karen Bellavance-Grace](#), [Beth Casebolt](#), [Rev. Renee Ruchotzke](#), [Rev. Dawn Cooley](#) and [Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer](#). You'll be served from staff by every region in the country and will see most of us at some point on the webinars.

What comes after October?

November 13th: **Right-Sizing Your Congregation**

Small congregations that try to be full-service churches burn out their leaders and volunteers. We will look at how you can structure your board, programs and ministries to keep your congregation nimble and effective. (Invite your board, committee chairs, and the leaders of your programs and ministries.)

January 15th: **Stewardship and Sustainability**

Our congregations are sustained by the money and time of their members -- both limited resources that are often a source of anxiety for leaders. How might we re-think stewardship using sustainable practices from communities that are grounded in authenticity and mutuality? (Invite your membership committee, finance folks, board, stewardship and building & grounds leaders.)

February 12th: **Being the Beloved Community**

Many people love smaller congregations because they like knowing everyone and being known. How can our congregations build on that strength? Offering an authentic welcome to newcomers, encouraging healthy relationships, and setting boundaries when some of the people that we love cause harm. (Invite your board, membership committee, committee on ministry, safety committee, & pastoral care committee.)

Each webinar will have something to learn about and a time for discussion with other congregational leaders.

And on or around March 14th, a **Pi Day** In Person Event Near(ish) You!

- *Why Pi Day? Small number, infinite possibility!*

10/8/2019

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- Facilitated by our regional staff with a video welcome from UUA president Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
- Meet other smaller congregation leaders
- Meaningful conversations
- Share support, ideas, and resources
- Explore opportunities for collaboration and ongoing shared learning
- Of course, there will be PIE!

We currently have more than 90 (!) congregations from around the country registered for this year, and we're excited that you'll all be getting to know each other and seeing the great wisdom, joy and value of smaller congregational work. Can't wait to see you on the 16th. Please get in touch if you have any questions, and get ready to get your logon information next week.

All the best,

Megan, Beth, Sarah, Karen, Renee, Evin, Phil and Dawn

Rev. Megan Foley (she/her) | Regional Lead

Congregational Life Staff | Central East Region

Phone (301) 535-2956 | Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/3015352956> | mfoley@uua.org

uua.org



Congregational Life: Coaching, Connecting, Companionship and Challenging Our Communities