

Dana McLean Greeley, 1961-1969

UUA Governance & Management, UUA Officers

Born in Massachusetts in 1908 to a longtime Unitarian family, Dana McLean Greeley, a Unitarian minister, was the last president of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and the first president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Known for his charisma, he was a **well-respected peace activist and civil rights leader.**

Robert Nelson West, 1969-1977

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Born in 1929 in Virginia, Robert Nelson West took the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) **presidency during a time of immense financial stress and saved the the organization from bankruptcy.** In 1971, West gave consent for Beacon Press to print the **Pentagon Papers**, immersing the UUA deep into the controversy over the Vietnam War.

West created the newspaper the *Unitarian Universalist World* (now the ***UU World* magazine**), the first UUA publication to be sent to every member of a UUA congregation. He also **oversaw the development of the first UUA sexual education program, *Human Sexuality*, and created the Office of Gay Concerns** (now the Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender (BGLT) Concerns).

*You might wish to read more about West on the UU biographies website or other UU sources. It was during his presidency that UUCSR gave two significant gifts to the UUA.

Paul Nathaniel Carnes, 1977-1979

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Born in 1921 in Indiana, Carnes was a supporter of desegregation and civil liberties. During his short presidency he worked to establish affirmative action for women and minorities in ministry. He **reinstated the Department of Social Responsibility at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to work on issues of racial equality.** Carnes died of lymphoma in 1979.

O. Eugene Pickett, 1979-1985

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Born in 1925 in Maryland, Eugene Pickett took the position of Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President upon the death of Paul Carnes. At General Assembly in 1981 he was elected for a four year term.

Pickett helped **facilitate the rewriting of the Unitarian Universalist principles**, which were in need of modernization. He thought that a common set of beliefs was important for the well-being of the religion. Pickett was also **responsible for the UUA's first major capital campaign** called *Visions for Growth* and the creation of Friends of the UUA.

William F. Schulz, 1985-1993

UUA Governance & Management, UUA Officers

Born in 1949 in Pennsylvania, Schulz was **passionate about social justice and participated in many marches and protests for women's rights, minority rights, and environmental rights**. He raised awareness of the importance of diversity within Unitarian Universalism.

Schulz became very involved with the Transylvanian Unitarians after the fall of the Ceausescu regime and **founded the Partner Church Program**. He also turned the *Unitarian Universalist World* newspaper into the *UU World* magazine in order to reach more people.

John A. Buehrens, 1993-2001

UUA Governance & Management, UUA Officers

Born in New Jersey in 1947, Buehrens **engaged the Boy Scouts of America over issues of God and acceptance of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender (BGLT) scouts and scout leaders**. The Buehrens administration **oversaw the introduction of *Our Whole Lives (OWL)***, our most recent comprehensive sexuality education curricula. Buehrens also recognized that there was a need for Unitarian Universalist books that Beacon Press could not publish and **created Skinner House Books** to print those texts.

Bill Sinkford

President, Unitarian Universalist Association from 2001 to 2009

Speaking about his legacy:

“First, we have developed **a more confident identity as a religious people**. Many of us have struggled over our “elevator speeches” describing our faith and have found that we don’t have to fear questions. The **language of reverence** helped to galvanize this transition.

Second, **we have gotten clear that the UUA is an Association of Congregations**. Although transcongregational gatherings, identity-based groups, and community ministries are important, Unitarian Universalism lives in our congregations. We have worked hard to reclaim this focus, offering incentives to congregational presidents to attend General Assembly, **creating UU University to help train our congregational leaders, and supporting international engagements that nurture and deepen congregational life**. The UUA Board of Trustees has been a faithful partner in reclaiming this focus.

Third, our **public witness** is more present and more effective than at any time in our history. We have become a credible liberal religious voice in the public square on a range of issues. **We are the leading religious voice for marriage equality. But our voice is also important on immigration reform, the Iraq and Afghan wars, environmental justice, and Darfur**. Eight years ago, I promised that I would lead us to greater public presence, and with the help of many others, I have.” (UU World)

Peter Morales, 2009-2017

UUA Governance & Management, UUA Officers

The Rev. Peter Morales was elected as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in June, 2009 and resigned in March, 2017.

Morales, the **first Latino president** of the UUA, was elected on a platform of growth and multiculturalism. **Public witness was central to Morales’s presidency**; he is especially passionate about immigration reform and environmental justice.

In March 2017, a **controversy** broke out regarding the UUA's hiring practices as they pertained to institutional racism. Charges spread on

social media that the leaders had chosen a white man over a qualified woman of color. In a letter to staff addressing the controversy, Morales called for “more humility and less self righteousness, more thoughtfulness and less hysteria.” Later he realized that the letter “made matters worse” and that he had “clearly lost the trust of many people.” On March 30, 2017, Morales announced he would resign as UUA president, effective two days later

Appointed on April 10, 2017, their term lasted until the end of the 2017 General Assembly on June 25, 2017.

The Rev. Sofía Betancourt is assistant professor of theology and ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry. Her work as a religious educator, parish minister, and seminary professor provided well-honed leadership qualities which prompted the UUA Board of Trustees to appoint her Interim Co-President of the UUA for the Commission on Institutional Change.

The Rev. William G. Sinkford served as president of the UUA from 2001-2009. He is senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR. He was appointed Interim Co-President for the Role of President as outlined in the UUA Bylaws.

Dr. Leon Spencer is professor emeritus at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA, and a decades-long lay leader. His work on behalf of anti-racism and anti-oppression efforts for Unitarian Universalist congregations began in 1985, when he helped establish the Black Concerns Working Group. He has participated in the Jubilee Working Group, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Team, and the Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries known as DRUUMM. He was appointed Interim Co-President of Constituent Outreach.

The **Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray** began her six-year term as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in June 2017. As president of the Association, she is responsible to the UUA Board of Trustees for administering staff and programs that serve its more than 1,000 member congregations. She also acts as principal spokesperson and minister-at-large for the UUA.

Prior to her election, she served as Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona where she was a national UU voice for immigrant rights. Susan played a critical role in the long-term campaign to end the constitutional violations of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. In 2012, Susan worked for the UUA to lead the vision and implementation of the powerful, first ever Justice General Assembly in Phoenix.