

# UU NNED Small Congregation Touchstone



***Hello from Rev. Karen Brammer,  
Small Church Specialist of the NNED***

- *Here is an experiment with different (free) electronic ways to keep in touch with you, the people of the NNED Small Congregations.*
- *Touchstone will be quarterly, depending on need and your feedback.*

## **In this power point:**

- Thoughts about these economic times
- Notice of two workshops and Notice of a NEW UUA WEB PAGE for Small Congregations
- A reminder to recertify your congregation
- If you are looking for professional ministry

# These Economic Times

We all know that the impact of the world economic crisis is serious and personal for most, if not all, of us.

While hope and energy rise in response to the Obama team, nothing at all is certain and there is lots of anxiety.

A powerful tool small congregations have is the ability to ask each other, and listen, to how each of us is doing. We do best when we do not leave each other isolated, and when we do the same for our neighbors in the larger community. This strengthens all of us.

Many people feel bad that as their resources shrink, they need to readjust their outreach in the community. Please remember this is part of a cycle that will likely shift again, and that money is important, but only one way we serve the larger community. I have learned from you that there are many ways to serve others and deepen our connection to faith and purpose.

It would be a mistake to make big decisions together based on fear. Instead we can work to lower our collective anxiety. It helps to focus on who we are together, and nurture faith in what is larger than any one of us. Then we can look at the facts and be more creative and compassionate in response.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me [kbrammer@uua.org](mailto:kbrammer@uua.org) for support. *In faith, Karen*



# Resources for Small Congregations (SCs)

## Two Workshops in Vt.

Preparing to grow from 75 to 150 members

Feb 21 10am-3pm

(snow date 2/29)

Hartland 4 Corners

## Strategies for Lay Leadership Development

Feb28 10am-3pm

(snow date 3/14)

Rutland

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

EMAIL [KBRAMMER@UUA.ORG](mailto:KBRAMMER@UUA.ORG)

\$8 PER PERSON TO COVER LUNCH AND  
CO2 OFFSET

- On Line Information at a new UUA site  
[www.uua.org/smallcongregations](http://www.uua.org/smallcongregations)
- The upcoming NNED web site has a new SC page
- Watch for a new series of workshops for SCs at GA 2009
- Free Drive Time Essays for SCs! Call or email the District Office

## You may already know this, but...

If you are looking for professional ministry, contact [kbrammer@uua.org](mailto:kbrammer@uua.org)

To help

- Clarify what ministry you need and want
  - Prepare the search committee to work well
  - Find ministers interested in small congregations
  - Congregation and new minister begin together
- It is time to recertify your congregation with the UUA. February 2 is the deadline
  - “This report of congregations' official membership numbers is used to determine total UUA adult and children members, help with research about worship attendance and other activities, determine the number of congregation member delegates for General Assembly and the District Annual Meeting, and calculate the congregation's APF contribution and the NNED's District's Contribution to the UUA for FY2010.”
  - Information regarding this process at <http://dyn.uua.org/congregation/>



Let me know how this way of communicating works for you.

email karen at [kbrammer@uua.org](mailto:kbrammer@uua.org)

**And of course you are always welcome to contact**

**the UU NNED District Office**

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**(603) 228-8704 or 1-800-730-8457**

