



# CVUUF

## November 2017

### Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Our mission is to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.

## Sunday Worship Services

### In This Issue

<a href="#">Minister's Message</a>	2
<a href="#">President's Message</a>	3
<a href="#">Religious Education</a>	4
<a href="#">Social Justice</a>	5
<a href="#">Art Wall</a>	6
<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>	7-11
<a href="#">Ministers' Covenant</a>	12
<a href="#">About Us</a>	15

This newsletter is published monthly. View this copy on our website at [www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org).

Deadline for articles or photos is the 25th day of each month at 6:00pm. Direct submissions to: [news@cvuuf.org](mailto:news@cvuuf.org). Content is placed, and may be edited by, Jill Lewis, Newsletter Editor

### Weekly News & Notes

(Sunday handouts/ weekly email)  
Email submissions to: [news@cvuuf.org](mailto:news@cvuuf.org)

### Visit us on

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/CVUUF](http://www.facebook.com/CVUUF)



### Follow us on Twitter



## This Month's Theme ~ Story

### November 5 ~ The Power of Stories~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

Stories are powerful. As Stewardship Consultant Kay Crider visits our congregation this weekend, we explore what it means to be shaped by our stories. As we look into the future and make decisions based on how and where we are now, what stories do we tell? What do we pay attention to and what stories do we wish to create? Join us as we begin our exploration of the theme of story. What stories are we telling as a congregation and as individuals? We will be holding a Congregational Meeting with the Board, Rev Nica and Kay Crider after the second service. Join us for a yummy potluck lunch before.

### November 12 ~ A Veteran's Life ~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

In honor of Veteran's Day this weekend we will listen to and explore the stories of veterans. Is the military system we have today in harmony with our UU values of striving for equality and peace? How are our veterans treated? How do Unitarian Universalists who serve our country make sense of their duty, while living with their UU values? Does an all-volunteer army go against our values? Please join us to hear some of our members sharing their experiences as veterans.

### November 19 ~ Gratitude and Thanksgiving ~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

What if Thanksgiving was more than a time of gathering and feasting and instead truly focused on gratitude? What if we used this holiday to honestly count our blessings and give thanks for our lives? This service will focus on offering gratitude and thanksgiving through music, story and ritual; ways that help us enrich this special holiday. To help us celebrate this occasion, we will partake in a special corn bread and cider ritual.

### November 26 ~ Shadows of Unitarian Universalism ~ Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that invites us to live in the tension between being present to the world as it is and organizing to bring about the world as it could be. But as with any effort, we Unitarian Universalists are far from perfect and over centuries, systems of White Supremacy have allowed UUs to fail to embrace the diversity and multiculturalism of community our living tradition envisions. Join guest preacher, Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd, for a story-based worship service of the opportunities, failures, and successes the Unitarians, Universalists, and now Unitarian Universalists have had in engaging Black Americans in the faith we share.

Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd is a religious educator and seminarian, who serves our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as a member of the Board of Trustees. Originally from South Central Pennsylvania, Greg enjoys Los Angeles and how his spirit is growing here. Greg currently serves as Coordinator for More Than Sex-Ed, a Greater Los Angeles comprehensive sexuality education collective that takes the UUA and United Church of Christ's Our Whole Lives values-based sexuality curriculum out into schools, home school groups, and the community.



# Minister's Message

[Home](#)

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn, Minister  
[minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org)

---

## November 2017 Minister's Newsletter Theme – Story

As we delve into our theme of *Story* this month, I am particularly curious what stories we tell as a congregation? Stewardship Consultant Kay Crider will be visiting our congregation to assess our financial and congregational health on the weekend of November 3 – 5. I hope as many of you as possible are available to attend one of the meetings with her that weekend. In any case, please join us for the congregational meeting on Sunday November 5 after the second service, where Kay will present her findings and answer questions. What stories do we want her to know? What stories are we telling as a community? What stories from our past strengthen us? Which ones limit us? And what stories do we wish to create for our congregational future?

Our Soul Matters material tells us this month that our lives are not just made up of stories; they are also *made by* stories. This might be the most important reminder of this month. Indeed, who among us hasn't felt controlled by a story? Stuck in a story? Hopeless about the way our story will end up? Simply put, stories write us as much as we write them.

Yet, the message of our faith is: We have a choice about what stories we tell. Our stories are not predetermined, unlike what our Puritan ancestors told us.

So fate and freedom? This month is much more about the tension between these two than one might have thought, leaving us with questions like: Are you an actor conforming to the scripts handed to you? Or have you found your own way of becoming a director, a screenwriter, an author? How are you struggling right now to regain control of the storyline of your life? How are you and your friends working to regain control of the storyline of our community? Our country?

Or maybe control is not your work. Maybe your spiritual work is about finding a new storyline. Maybe retirement, divorce, illness or the empty-nest has closed the book on one story and is inviting you to leap into a whole new narrative. Does that leave you excited about what's to come? Scared? Or a bit of both?

Whatever it is. Wherever you are in your life. You write your narrative. And we at CVUUF write ours together. What will we co-create?

I look forward to deepening our exploration of story through worship and our small groups, as well as Kay Crider's weekend. And if you wish to enjoy an evening of Story through Song, please join my husband Michael and myself, with Joel Rieke on piano, for an evening of Cabaret and shared singing. It's a fundraiser for CVUUF – so let's raise the roof on Saturday November 11 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Jo Ann Van Reenan for tickets on [vanreenanj@gmail.com](mailto:vanreenanj@gmail.com).

Do join us for our many opportunities to write our collective story this month!

In anticipation and with gratitude,

Reverend Nica

# President's Message

Tom Wolf  
[president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)



[Home](#)

Hello from sunny Southern California. Or, as it currently seems, from the middle of a July heat wave somehow transported to late October. Time does have some funny elements though, and I am not sure that we can blame all of them on global warming or Trump.

Actually, it seems to me that time has found a weird motionless balance between looking forward to an upcoming event and the event itself. Before I talk about CVUUF though, let me try a baseball analogy.

As you read this the World Series is probably over. Even if it isn't over, it is way past the third game in the series. Let me take you back to where I am right now, which is the series is tied at one game apiece, and game three is tonight in Houston. Game three is critical, and there is a huge correlation between the winner of game three and the winner of the World Series. But no matter how much I want to watch game three, and how much I can be confident of the outcome of both game three and the entire series – I can't do anything really but wait and see. It is exciting and frustrating at the same time.

And that is kind of how I feel about the upcoming First Steps Weekend with Kay Crider on November 3-5, and also the future of a successful Capital Campaign. As the Board President I have learned a lot about our financial situation, I have learned a lot about our first Capital Campaign ten years ago, and I have learned a lot about the kind of generous people we have here at CVUUF.

I am tremendously confident that we will be able to carefully assess both our needs and our resources, and thus the probabilities of a successful campaign. I am also tremendously confident that we will in fact rise to the challenge, and a year or two from now we will be in a much different financial situation. We will have paid off completely, or at least a huge chunk of, our mortgage and other debts, and will no longer have to pay such a large monthly bill for our buildings. We will be financially solvent in a way that we haven't really been since the crash of 2007-2008.

And yet, we all just have to wait and see.

Go Blue!  
Go CVUUF!

***Tom Wolf***



# Religious Education News

Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education  
(DRE) [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org)

[HOME](#)

I'd like to start by saying THANK YOU to all who participated in this first Intergenerational service, *Honoring Our Ancestors*. I loved seeing so many of our children taking part throughout the service, and judging by all the smiles in the crowd, many of you enjoyed them too. I especially loved hearing the stories from our speakers. Hearing your words warmed my heart, and even brought tears to my eyes. Even sharing my story made me choke up a bit! Sharing in this way brings us all closer together, helps us understand each other a bit better, and keeps the memories of those who came before us alive and brightened with love.

In preparing for this service, I felt it a good transition into November's theme of Story. So, what is your story? How do you want that story heard? Who do you want to hear it? The intent we put into how we want the story understood is important, and varies in different company. Is it meant to be a lesson? An anecdote? A sign of empathy? This is done almost automatically, shaping how we want to be seen or perceived through our storytelling. But here's another thought. What intent are you putting into your story as it's written? We all omit a detail here and there after the event has been committed to memory. Or maybe a detail is completely erased from memory because it's too awkward or painful to recall. Whether we like it or not, this shapes our stories too.

This is some of what we will be looking at in RE this month. Who are you? Where have you been, and where are you going? You and your story are unique and worth telling. We'll also be looking at the importance of listening, really listening, to the stories of those around us. It's easy to get wrapped up in your own little world, but oh my, when we stop to truly see who another person is, that little world can grow exponentially. That wide-eyed wonder on a child's face when they realize someone is just like them, or learning something about another person that is completely unexpected... Well, I think it's something we can all relate to. That is the beauty of sharing our stories. We are also sharing in the wonder that is us.

As our young ones learn what it is to tell their own stories, I truly hope you stop to listen. These children are funny and brilliant, and have a most fascinating perspective on life. This may very well be a moment you can learn from them. I hope you take that chance.

We all are inherently good people. All of us. Just look at our principles and values! We work hard to live a life that embraces dignity and compassion, truth, and justice. We slip up. As human beings, that's necessary, really. It's how we learn our lessons, how we better ourselves as we strive to live this life in the best way possible. THIS is what our stories could be! It's possible! The stories of our past shape who we are and importantly, that story is not over. We are still here, typing away at the proverbial keyboard. We are living a "Choose Your Adventure" book. As you write your story for future generations to hear, in what direction do you want your adventure to go? I am all ears.

# News From Our Social Action Director



Pamela Lopez

[Home](#)

[socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org](mailto:socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org)

The Big News coming out of Social Action is we are defining our focus. We had an incredible attendance at the October 21 Love Resists workshop. Approximately 100 people came, from 12 different congregations, with about 35-40 from CVUUF. We have been asked what two or three issues mean the most to us that we, as a congregation, want to work on. We are still in the process of exploration on this and will have more definitive answers within the next couple of months.

Here is what we should be mulling over... when we look at the social justice issues we are passionate about (and there are MANY), what is the "lens" we want to look at it through? Economic Inequality? Racial Justice? Systemic oppression of women and the LGBTQ community? Please come to our next Justice Sunday reflection and gathering on December 3 following second service as we explore this important conversation more fully. And bring a potluck dish to share.

Feeding Hands continues on the first Tuesday of the month, November 7. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged. We have cooks in the CVUUF kitchen, home cooks, volunteers to serve the meals, and the ever-appreciated folks who do a great clean-up job on the following day. This is such a true experience of being in community. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Anne Ewell at [anne.ewell1@verizon.net](mailto:anne.ewell1@verizon.net).

The monthly Justice and Compassion movie and discussion night is Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary. This month we will be screening *Accidental Courtesy*, a documentary about African American musician Daryl Davis who meets and befriends members of the Ku Klux Klan with the belief "how can they hate me if they know me?" We'll follow the journey of this brave and compassionate man.

Our Escalating Inequality Group meets on the last Monday of the month. Right now, we are focusing on healthcare issues.

The Community Forum planning committee meets on the second Sunday of the month at 12:15. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic group who regularly presents community-wide programs at CVUUF, please come and check us out.

If you have any questions or thoughts, you can always contact me at [socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org](mailto:socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org).

# Transforming Our World Together



## November's Theme

# Stories

On the Art Wall in Fellowship Hall, we want to hear and see your stories through words and pictures.

Storytelling is the social and cultural activity of sharing stories, often with improvisation, theatrics, or embellishment. Stories or narratives have been shared in every culture as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation and instilling moral values.



*Share in the fun! Join the creativity! Color your world!*

**Contact person: Gwyn Vanoni at [Artwall@cvuuf.org](mailto:Artwall@cvuuf.org)**

## ART WALL

Looking for an idea? Here are a few prompts and thoughts to help you get started.

- ⚙ Write about an emotion you can't/won't let go of? How has it shaped who you are?
- ⚙ Find a picture from many years ago and describe that day only in terms of emotion.
- ⚙ Write about two people seeing each other for the first time.
- ⚙ If you won a billion dollar jackpot, how would your life stay the same?
- ⚙ Retell a story familiar to you, but this time include a green slimy monster.
- ⚙ What does Sunday mean to you?
- ⚙ Shh... "Hear that?" Finish the story.
- ⚙ Retell a funny story you heard from a relative when you were young.
- ⚙ Write something inspired by a recent dream you had.
- ⚙ Darkness: Write a poem or story inspired by what you can't see.

*The Art wall is for all ages to share in the beauty of our Fellowship—Come join us!*

## **PATH TO MEMBERSHIP**

Are you considering becoming a member of CVUUF? You are cordially invited to attend our Path to Membership class on **Sunday, November 12, 2017, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. Join Rev. Nica, as well as church members, and learn more about membership as a Unitarian Universalist and our fellowship. Light refreshments will be served. Child care is available with reservation. Please contact Nancy Cooper, [ngrbm@aol.com](mailto:ngrbm@aol.com) (805.660.2188) or the church office if you would like to attend. This is the last Membership information class before our special New Member Service on Sunday, December 10.

## **COME TO THE CABARET**

The **Cabaret Concert and Singalong** with Reverend Nica, Michael Guinn & Joel Rieke is on Saturday, **November 11 at 7 pm, CVUUF Sanctuary**. Some tickets for this show were previously purchased and the date was postponed. Now it's finally here!

The cabaret promises to be an evening of delightful song and audience participation. If you would like to join us, tickets will be on sale during coffee hour Nov. 5th, as well as at the door. Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds go to the fellowship.

You may also purchase tickets by contacting JoAnn van Reenan at [vanreenanj@juno.com](mailto:vanreenanj@juno.com)

## **GREETERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES**

We need someone to **usher the first Sunday, second service and fifth Sunday second service**. You'll be one of the first members to greet visitors and members alike, pass out orders of service, take the collection and pass out News and Notes at the end of the service. This is a once a month commitment. If you are interested, please contact Jo Ann Van Reenan, [vanreenanj@gmail.com](mailto:vanreenanj@gmail.com) or [805-382-9794](tel:805-382-9794). Thanks



## **Congregational Stewardship Visit Nov. 3-5!**

Stewardship Coach, Kay Crider, will be with us November 3-5. She will meet with our board and staff on Friday evening, and with committees all day on Saturday to hear about our culture, concerns, and our hopes and priorities for moving forward. A core focus of the visit will be on identifying recommended next steps and practical information to help us successfully achieve our stated goals.

On Sunday after the second service Kay will present her initial observations and recommendations to our entire congregation including a Q & A time. A detailed written report delivered within two weeks of the visit will contain congregational survey results, data analysis, techniques for successful campaigns, UUA and district/regional resources applicable for our fellowship, and a timeline of recommendations customized for us.

Childcare will be provided during Kay's presentation after the Sunday service, from 12:45 - 2:00pm, with a light lunch 12:15 to 12:45.

Please make room in your schedule to participate so that we will get the most out of this endeavor. Thank you!

Tom Wolf, President and Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn

## **Religious Education Teachers Needed**

Are you looking for a way to be of help at CVUUF? Young at heart? Interested by what our young ones are doing in classes? Join the RE team! We are still in need of 3 to 4 teachers. All we ask is for a commitment of 2 Sundays a month during first service. Amazing discussions and fun activities fill our time. There is nothing quite like being involved in the upbringing of young UUs. Not sure if it's the right fit for you? Come visit a classroom, or speak with one of our volunteers. Brilliant minds are at work in RE! Come be a part of the magic! Contact Sam at [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org) to learn how to get involved.

Ventura County Interfaith Community  
and Campus Interfaith for CSUCI  
invite you to a

# Feast of Faiths

2017 Theme: Oneness

November 5, at 5:00 PM

The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints

The annual Feast of Faiths, a gathering of individuals from various religions to discuss their beliefs with those of other faiths informally over dinner, will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, November 5 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1201 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA 93010-1717. The concept of unity is the theme for this Feast of Faiths.

Members of various religions - including but not limited to Christian, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Baha'i, LDS, Quaker, Pagan, and Buddhist - will share a meal. The purpose of the dinner is to help create understanding between people of different religions. Halal-style and vegetarian food will be served.

Suggested donation of \$22 if received by October 25, or \$27 at the door. Student (8 and older) suggested donation of \$12 by October 25, or \$15 at the door.

Please RSVP by October 25, 2017, returning this portion with donation.

General Admission Names \_\_\_\_\_

Student Names \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Tradition \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks to Ventura County Interfaith Community.

Send donations for the Feast of Faiths to VCIC, 3482 Barca St., Camarillo, CA 93010, or call Teri Helton at (805) 312- 1631 or email [teri@terihelton.com](mailto:teri@terihelton.com).



### **THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER**

Come join us for a UU family Thanksgiving. Why do all the cooking yourself? Let's eat, drink and be thankful together.

RSVP by clicking on the link below, or just grab Hilary anytime. The more the merrier!!

Day: Thursday November 24

Time: [2:00pm](#)

Place: Fellowship Hall

If you'd like to join us, please contact Hilary Rosen.

[Hilary@tdjax.com](mailto:Hilary@tdjax.com)

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0848A9AD2DA0FE3-thanksgiving](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0848A9AD2DA0FE3-thanksgiving)



## **The CVUUF 2018 Annual Auction Saturday, February 24, 2018!**



The Auction Committee is seeking your input to help make this the best and most successful auction ever.

Do you patronize any businesses that you'd like to invite to donate to our Fellowship auction? Please reach out to Auction Committee member Katie Smith for help, or she will be happy to contact the establishment on your behalf. Contact Katie by email at [katiebug93065@gmail.com](mailto:katiebug93065@gmail.com) or via her mobile phone number, 805.341.9970.

Please think about offerings to be auctioned. The auction provides a vital contribution to our church budget, and is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of other members, make new friends, and share common interests. Would you like to host an event such as a dinner, tea, a concert, or a tour? Could you offer items, services, or special talents? Do you have access to a vacation/getaway opportunity that could be offered at our auction? These are examples of popular offerings that generate income to support the mission and the well-being of our congregation every year.

Many hands and volunteers are needed to make our auction successful! We need folks to help plan the event, manage donations and bidder data, work with the auction software, organize volunteers, and more. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

You can contact the Auction Committee by sending an email message to [auction@cvuuf.org](mailto:auction@cvuuf.org).

***Covenant Between  
The Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn  
And  
The Reverend Doctor Betty Stapleford  
September 10, 2017***

**Tom Wolf:** The relationship established between a Minister and a congregation is special, interdependent, rewarding, and complex. It is important that both the members and the Minister seek to keep the best interests of the congregation in mind. We also recognize that the relationship between a congregation and its former Ministers, especially a Minister Emerita, is unique, and that the Minister Emerita's continued presence in the community poses distinctive advantages, as well as challenges. In these circumstances, it is wise for these ministers to develop a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the congregational system, as well as articulate how they can best support each other and the general ministry and flourishing of the congregation. This covenant acts in the same way that our covenant of good relations acts, in that it is both aspirational and in deed.

Reverend Dr. Betty Stapleford served the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 1998 to 2010, and was voted into Minister Emerita status by the congregation on her retirement.

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn was called to be the Settled Minister of CVUUF, beginning in August of 2016. Both have agreed to now enter a Covenant with one another, grounded in the Professional Practice and Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

This covenant is based on the understanding of the unique relationship a minister has with the membership of a congregation. Mindful of Reverend Betty's longtime relationship with the congregation, this covenant reaffirms the need for Reverend Nica to have time to develop and deepen her own relationships with the congregation.

**Reverend Nica:** In celebration and recognition of the 12-year ministry provided to CVUUF by Reverend Betty, and the honor of Minister Emerita bestowed on her by the congregation, and respecting the best practices for ministry, I covenant to be faithful to the letter and spirit of the Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines of the UUMA, as we enter into a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring.

Therefore...

- I will value the contributions and participation of Rev. Betty as part of the rich tradition of ministry in this congregation and our faith
- I welcome Rev. Betty and her husband Tom's, presence at Sunday worship services, as well as other agreed-upon church events.
- I agree to be Rev. Betty's minister, her colleague and her friend.
- I understand that through her involvement with organizations in the wider community, she will sometimes be working with members of the church, and I will be supportive of those outside CVUUF relationships;
- I will strive to remain aware of the challenges for a Minister Emerita remaining in relationship with her former congregation, and listen with an open heart to Reverend Betty if she comes to me with concerns;
- I will speak directly, privately, and honestly to Reverend Betty about any concerns I have with her return to CVUUF.
- I agree to speak and meet with Reverend Betty on a regular basis to maintain collegial connection. We will have bi-annual meetings to ensure our Covenant is serving the relationship.

**Reverend Betty:** In celebration and recognition of Reverend Nica's ministry to CVUUF, and respecting the best practices for ministry, I covenant to be faithful to the letter and spirit of the Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines of the UUMA, as we enter into a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring.

Therefore...

- I will honor the congregation's call to Reverend Nica as the current settled and sole Minister of this congregation

- I will let Rev. Nica know when I plan to attend Sunday worship or other agreed-upon Fellowship events. I will let Rev. Nica know when I plan to attend Sunday worship or other agreed-upon Fellowship events.
- I will not seek or accept any leadership roles in the congregation until there is a mutual desire to change the agreement.
- I will decline any requests that might come to me for pastoral care, or for participation in rites of passage such as weddings, memorial services, child dedications, etc., and will refer them to Reverend Nica; I will also inform her of those requests.
- Before accepting invitations or requests for other involvements at CVUUF, I will consult with Reverend Nica about the advisability.
- I will not participate in any conversations with church members/friends about Reverend Nica's ministry, or any controversial issues at CVUUF; if I find myself in a situation where such a conversation begins, I will absent myself.
- If I am concerned with anything to do with Rev. Nica's ministry, I will speak directly, privately, and honestly with her about my concerns.
- I agree to speak and meet with Reverend Nica on a regular basis to strengthen our collegial connection. We will have bi-annual meetings to ensure our Covenant is serving the relationship.

**Revs. Betty and Nica:** As Unitarian Universalist ministers, we covenant to be mindful in our actions and to speak the truth to each other in love, to keep the best interests of this congregation above all, so that this Fellowship may continue to thrive and live out its Mission.

**Tom Wolf:** While problems are not anticipated, Reverend Betty and Reverend Nica agree that if problems do arise, they will address them quickly and forthrightly with one another. Should further assistance be needed, they will reach out to the "Good Officers" from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Having witnessed this covenant, it is our intention as a congregation to support and affirm this covenant to ensure the health and flourishing of the congregation and its ministry. Although this covenant is between two individuals, two ministers, all of us at CVUUF have a stake in the success of it. Each of us must strive to ensure the success of this endeavor, as we strive to make all of the interests of our congregation succeed. Each of us must both speak and act in such a way that encourages this covenant, and supports rather than diminishes this covenant.

I now invite the members and friends of CVUUF to speak the following shared words of support:  
 "We the members and friends of CVUUF support and uphold this covenant by turning to Reverend Nica as our settled minister, looking to her for leadership, guidance, pastoral care, justice and worship. And we welcome back Reverend Betty as our former minister and now long-time friend and member of our community. We too endeavor to support and participate in a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring with our Minister and our Minister Emerita. We strive to be advocates for the health of this congregation and the flourishing of its ministry."

May it be so!

# Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Shared Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



## Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3327 Old Conejo Road  
Newbury Park CA 91320 ([map](#))  
805-498-9548  
[www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org)

[Home](#)

***A Welcoming Community to all persons regardless of their race, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity.***

### Staff

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn [minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org)  
Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education, [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org)  
Joel Rieke, Music Director, [musicdirector@cvuuf.org](mailto:musicdirector@cvuuf.org)  
Dianna Mueller, Administrator, [admin@cvuuf.org](mailto:admin@cvuuf.org)

### Board of Trustees 2016-2017

Tom Wolf, Board President, [president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)  
David Barker, Vice President  
Kathleen Holland, Secretary  
Peter Schlaus, Treasurer  
At-Large Trustees: Dalila Sankaran, Kelly Castillo, Tim Snowber

### Additional UU resource links:

[Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#) The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

[Pacific Southwest District \(PSWD\)](#)

PSWD serves Pacific Southwest congregations including the States of California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Services are held at 9:15 and 11:00am with Coffee Hour following each service. Children's Religious Education (RE) is held during the 9:15am service, and Childcare is provided. During the 11:00am service, our high school RE program (YRUU) meets.

**Visitors are always welcome.**