

New York State Convention of Universalists  
197th<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
*Today's Universalism: Audacity, Courage, and Grace*  
October 20 and 21, 2023

**Please note that this will be a hybrid meeting- we encourage you to participate in person or online!**  
(At the present time, masks are optional for in-person attendees.)

**Host Congregation:**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, NY  
183 Riverside Drive  
Binghamton, NY 13905

**Housing:**

Doubletree by Hilton Binghamton  
225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY  
(607) 722 7575

Special Rate is \$139 for NYSCU; honored both Friday and Saturday nights

Call the number above or use the link

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=BGMWSDT&groupCode=CDTUUC&arrivaldate=2023-10-20&departuredate=2023-10-22&cid=OM.WW.HILTONLINK.EN.DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

by September 20 to ensure the NYSCU rate.

**Friday evening, October 20**

**7:30-9:30 PM Informal welcome and refreshments, meet & greet. All are welcome!**

Doubletree Hotel, Meeting room

**Saturday, October 22**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton**

8:30 AM- Registration, coffee

9:00 AM Opening Worship and Music

Rev. Verdis Robinson; Voices of the Spirit

9:30 AM Keynote Address

**Rev. Verdis L. Robinson: The Audacity of Universalism**

The call to live our Universalist values by loving others is a strong and bold one. It becomes even more audacious as we seek to apply those values in our personal lives and relationships, as well as looking at history. The journey requires courage and grace.

10:15- 10:45 Keynote Dialogue

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00 Business meeting

11:45 Lunch (provided by the host congregation)

12:30 Workshop Session 1

**NYSCU Grants and Loans- What's new?**

**Presenter: Jim D'Aloisio, NYSCU Grants and Loans chair**

Many congregations have benefitted from NYSCU grants over the years. The NYSCU Board has recently updated the guidelines and criteria for the grants process. Whether you've never applied, or have benefitted in the past, we'll update you on how our grants process works to promote and support Universalism in today's world.

**So, CAN we sing Spirituals?**

**Presenter: Rev. Verdis Robinson**

This question has come up in many UU congregations as we seek to provide rich musical elements to worship, while honoring and respecting the art and culture of all. Rev. Verdis will share his perspective and practical wisdom.

1:30-1:45 Break

1:45 PM Workshop Session 2

**Finances, Endowments, and UU Values: A Roundtable**

**Moderator: Ann Rhody (NYSCU President; Finance Chair, First Universalist Church of Rochester)**

Church endowments vary in size, structure and policy. How can we use our endowments to best meet the needs of our congregation as well as our Universalist values? Come share your experience and hear what is working in other congregations.

**The Carbon-Neutral Congregation: Is it Possible?**

**Presenter: Wes Ernsberger, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton**

Can we really make headway toward becoming carbon-neutral, given the challenges of building age, expense, and resistance to change? Wes will share the steps that have been taken at UUCB to make this a reality.

3:00 Closing Worship

3:15 Meeting adjourns