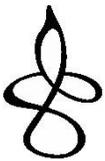


SUSAN  
RITCHIE



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## Curriculum Vitae

### Current Employment

*Director of the Unitarian Universalist House of Studies and Fully Affiliated Faculty Member, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio. 2016-*

*Parish Minister, North Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lewis Center, Ohio. 1996-*

Since 1996 this congregation has:

- Doubled in size; purchased its first permanent church home; a religious education annex and acres of adjoining property;
- added professional music and administrative staff;
- nurtured the nascent call of eight ministers.
- Successfully conducted a million dollar capital campaign

### Education

Ph.D. Cultural/Religious Studies (housed at that time within Department of English), Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 1992.

M.Div. Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, 1995.

M.A. English, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1988; elected to Phi Beta Phi. Includes one year of coursework at the University of Pittsburgh.

B.A. English Writing, Cum Laude with Special College Honors, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, 1986; elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Presidential Scholar (academic scholarship).

### Ministerial Fellowship and Ordination

Ordination, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, May 1995.  
Preliminary Ministerial Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 1995; Final Ministerial Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 1999.

### Denominational Leadership

*Board of Trustees, UU Society for Community Ministry, 2018-present*

*Editorial Board Member, Journal of Unitarian Universalist History, 2010-present.*

*Secretary of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Elected by the Board of Trustees, June 2013-June 2014*

- Executive Committee of the Association
- Election Practices Committee

*Trustee, Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Association. Elected to serve as an at-large Trustee, June 2013-June 2014.*

- Transforming GA Team  
Working on a vital counter oppressive revision of General Assembly that would greatly increase representation of marginalized persons, and increase the accountability of delegates to congregations

*Trustee, Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Association, Elected by the Ohio Meadville District, 2009-2013.*

- Chair of Board Restructuring Task Force;  
Responsible for constructing and passing the bylaw radically restructuring the board along counter-oppressive lines, and the first bylaw requiring that all UUA appointments reflect full diversity, especially with regard to historically marginalized communities
- Assistant Secretary of the Association
- Member Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression/Multiculturalism Committee; Right Relations Team
- Member, Committee on Committees
- Chair, Ministerial Credentialing Task Force
- Chair, Distinguished Service to Unitarian Universalism Award Committee

*Member of the Advisory Board, Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Vision Center, 2012-2015.*

*Trustee, Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society, 2012-2014.*

*Member, Friends of Beacon Press Advisory Group, 2012-2014.*

*Good Officer, Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association, 2007-2013.*

- Mediated congregational conflicts; negotiated ministerial resignations

*Advisor, Unitarian Universalist Community Schools Campaign, 2010-2013.*

- Performed an extensive study on the causes of failure in explicitly Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist schools

*Chair, Midwest Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, 2003-2008.*

*Chair of Commissioned Lay Leader Program of the Ohio Meadville District, 2004-2009; Committee Member and Mentor to Candidates, 1996-2012.*

*Liaison to Students, Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association, 2004-2006.*

*Trustee, Board of Trustees, Ohio Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 1998-2003.*

*President, Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, 1999-2000.*

### **Community Leadership and Activism**

*Visiting Minister and World Religions Instructor, Horizon Program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Mansfield, Ohio, 2017-present*

*Member, Community Leaders Council, Ohio AFL-CIO, 2010-2013.*

*Volunteer Pastoral Counselor, Columbus AIDS Task Force, 1995-2008.*

*Volunteer Chaplain, Capital Care Women's Center, 1995-2007.*

*Clergy Advisor, Columbus Jobs with Justice, Janitorial Rights Campaign, 2003.*

*Spokesperson, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, 2002.*

*President of the Board and Director of Clergy Training, Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, 1995-1998.*

- Increased fundraising levels by fivefold, served as CEO until the new funding levels allowed for professional staff

*Trustee, Board of Trustees, National Abortion Rights Action League, 1998-2000.*

*Project Director, Save the Children Foundation Anti-violence education and Memorial Program for Parents of Murdered Children, 1996-97.*

### **Previous Employment**

*Associate Professor of Unitarian Universalist History and Ministry, Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, California. 2008-2014*

- Director of the Unitarian Universalist Certificate Program
- Acting Dean of Faculty, 2014
- Rebecca Parker, recommending my appointment on behalf of the faculty, wrote: “In reviewing the student evaluations of her courses, we note that they are all consistently stellar. A student wrote, ‘I love Susan Ritchie’s playful and yet engaging teaching style. She provides emotional and chronological space for questions; her persona invites questions and dialogue.’ In making this recommendation to the Board, we affirm with enthusiasm that Dr. Ritchie has shown herself to be not only an outstanding teacher and scholar, and an excellent mentor- advisor, but also an exemplary colleague contributing to the work of the Core Faculty.”
- Intensive experience in online and distance learning modalities

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Westerville, Ministerial Consultant, 1995-2000.

First Unitarian Universalist Church, Columbus, Associate Minister, 1995-96.

### **Publications**

#### Books:

*Unitarian Pirates of the Caribbean: Historical Adventures in Unitarian Universalist Polity* (forthcoming).

*A Documentary History of Unitarian Universalism, Volumes One and Two*, with Dan McKanan and other members of the Editorial Board (Boston: Skinner House Press, 2017).

*Children of the Same God: The History of Unitarianism in Relationship to Islam and Judaism*, (Boston: Skinner House Books, 2014).

#### Anthology

*How the Unitarians Invented Christmas: Plus Five Historic Christmas Short Stories* (Cambridge: Harvard Square Library, 2018).

#### Articles and Book Chapters:

“The Flaming Chalice: The History and Importance of the Symbol of Unitarian Universalism” (a pamphlet for distribution to congregations; Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2017).

“Elaine Showalter: *The Civil Wars of Julia Ware Howe*,” (book review), *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* XL (2016-2017): 181-185.

“Let the Wrong Ones In: Leadership in Congregational Polity,” *Bless the Imperfect: Reflections on Leadership*, Kay Montgomery, editor (Boston:

Skinner House Books, 2013).

“Unitarian Universalism, Unitarianism, and Universalism,” *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices*, Thomas Riggs, editor (Farmington Hill, MI: Gale, 2013).

“Matthew S. Hedstrom: *The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth Century*” (book review), *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* XXXVI (2012-2013): 117-119.

“Andrea Greenwood and Mark Harris: *An Introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Traditions*” (book review), *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* XXXV 2011-2012): 180-182

*A History of Unitarian and Universalist Secondary Education* (NY: UU Community Schools Campaign, 2011).

“Unitarian Universalism,” *Religions: A Clinical Guide for Nurses*, Elizabeth Johnston, editor (NY: Springer Publishing, 2011): 265-269.

“Unitarianism” and “Unitarian Universalist Association,” *World Book Encyclopedia*, 2009.

“Budin Paşası ve Turda Fermanı: Transilvanya Üniteryen Kültürüyle İslam Kültürünün Birbirine Kenetlenişi ve Dini Hoşgörünün Gelişimi,” in Walter Andrews and Özgen Felek, *Victoria Holbrook’z Armagan: Yayına hazırlayanlar* (a collection of work from the past twenty years in Ottoman Studies honoring scholar Victoria Holbrook), (Istanbul: Kanat Kitap, 2006): 233-260.

“The Pasha of Buda and the Edict of Torda: Unitarian/Ottoman Cultural Enmeshment and the Development of Religious Toleration,” *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* XXX (2005): 36-54.

“The Islamic Influence on the Radical Reformation’s Development of Principles of Religious Toleration,” *Seasons: The Zaytuna Institute Journal of Islamic Studies* (London, Spring 2004).

- Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, used this article as a basis for their public discussion at an international peace conference in 2005.

“The Promise of Postmodernism for Unitarian Universalist Theology,” *Kereszté ny Magvető* (journal of the Unitarian seminary of Koloszvar, Romania) translated into Hungarian by Czure Zabolcs (Winter 2004).

“Early Unitarianism and Universalism in Ohio” (with Linda Thompson),

*Religion in Ohio: Over 200 Years of Experiences*, Tarunjit Butalia and Dianne Small, eds. (Columbus: State of Ohio, 2004): 259-265.

“The Promise of Postmodernism for Unitarian Universalist Theology” *Journal of Liberal Religion* (electronic format through the Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Spring 2002).

“Contesting Secularism: Reflexive Methodology, Belief Studies, and Disciplined Knowledge,” *Journal of American Folklore* 115 (2002): 443-456.

“Horace Mann,” and “Elizabeth, Mary and Sophia Peabody,” *Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography*, Peter Hughes, editor (2001).

“Take, Read!: Reading as Sacred Discipline,” *Everyday Spiritual Practice*, Scott Alexander, editor (Boston: Skinner House Press, 1999).

“Dangerous Blessings: Contemporary Unitarianism and the Transcendentalist Heritage,” *The Universalist Herald*, Winter 1997-1998.

Monthly Columnist on World Religions, 1996-1998, *Epiphanies: The Journal for Traditional and Emerging Spiritualities*.

“The Subject of Post-Colonial Postmodernism: Feminism and Nadine Gordimer’s *A Sport of Nature*,” *Critical Studies: Writing the Nation: Self and Country in Post-Colonial Imagination*, John C. Hawley, editor (Amsterdam: *Critical Studies*, 1996): 151-161.

“Who Speaks for Representation?” (on the social character of personhood) *Western Folklore* 52:24 (1993): 365-378.

“Constructing an Archipelago: Dilemmas in Postcolonialism,” *Postmodern Culture* (January, 1993, electronic format).

“A Body of Texts” in *Bodylore*, Katharine Young, Editor (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1993; paperback reprint, 1995): 205-223.

“Theorizing the Body” (Review article), *Journal of American Folklore* 143 (Summer 1991).

“Inappropriate Fertility: Poststructuralism and the Teen Parent,” with Shuman and Meckling in *Turning the Century: Feminist Theory in the 1990’s* (Bucknell University Press, 1991): 151-164.

“Reading the Social Text,” *Research and Society* 3 (1990): 151-163.

“Cultural Texts” (review article), *Journal of American Folklore* 141 (Winter

1990).

### **Non-Traditional Publications**

“The Pamphlet: Uncovering Unitarian Universalisms Hidden Histories,” a Podcast with Sean Neil Barron, 2016-present. A very popular podcast; received a special grant from the Young Adult office of the UUA.

“Revitalizing the Water Communion,” “Beyond Confrontational Politics: the Legacy of Adlai Stevenson,” “Summer Reading 2018: Unitarian Universalist History in Novels,” “Covenant,” “The Unitarian Universalist History of Christmas,” all Special Features for *Harvard Square Library: A Digital Library of Unitarian Universalism*. 2016-present.

### **Invited Presentations** (invited, keynote and selected only)

- *God is Love: The Future of Universalism* (keynote), National Convocation of Universalist Churches, May 4, 2018.
- *Reinventing Unitarian Universalism: Sacramento’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Beyond*, Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, Sesquicentennial Keynote, March 4, 2018.
- *Mixities: Telling Our Origin Stories* (keynote), Four Corners Unitarian Universalist Retreat, Durango, Colorado, 2017.
- *Speaking from the Heart*, UU Justice Ohio workshop, 2017.
- *The UU Theology of Ecology*, General Assembly of the UUA, June 2016.
- *Small Batch Unitarian Universalism: A History of the Ohio Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association for Its Final Meeting*. Ohio Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, April 2, 2016.
- *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*, keynote address for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio, October 17, 2015.
- *Love Is the Doctrine of this Church*, Pennsylvania Universalist Convocation Keynote Address, October 2015
- *Children of the Same God: Unitarian Universalism in Historical Relationship to Islam and Judaism*, Seminary for a Day Keynote Address, January 15, 2015, First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon.
- *What’s Love Got to Do with It: Historical Reflections on Universalist Inclusivity*, National Convocation of Universalist Churches, May 2014.
- *How to Preach Extemporaneously*, UUMA *Beyond the Call*, August 2013.
- *Wherever It Listeth: Covenant and Transforming Democracy*,

- Keynote Speaker, Seminary for a Day, San Diego cluster of congregations, October 2013.
- Keynote Speaker, *Enriching History: Thomas Starr King, Earl Warren, and Freemasonry in California* (Conference), November 2013.
  - *Ordained Ministry for a New Millennium: Theologies and Practices of Renewal* (with Rebecca Parker) UUMACENTER Days, January 2012.
  - Respondent to John Buehrens' Minns Lecture, *Walking More Humbly and Thriving*, Oak Park, IL, May 2012.
  - *The Second U: Universalist Lies and Legacies*, invited lecture by UUA ministry staff group, General Assembly 2011.
  - *Yams on the Beach: A Theological History of UU Leadership*, Ohio Meadille District Leadership Day, September 2010.
  - Minns Lectureship; a series of lectures given at Harvard, UUA Headquarters, First Church of Boston, King's Chapel of Boston, and the General Assembly of the UUA, *Children of the Same God: The History of Unitarianism in Relationship to Islam and Judaism*.
  - *President's Lecture* (Starr King School for the Ministry) at General Assembly, June 2009.
  - *History of UU Evangelism and Social Action*, UU Leadership Team Institute, July 2010.
  - Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute Worship Leader 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2011.
  - *Trickster Grace: Sources of Hope for the Postmodern* (creative nonfiction), Wexner Center for the Arts Reading, Ohio State University, February 2008.
  - *Folklore in the Religious Sphere* for the Ohio State University Folklore Center, 2006.
  - *Ottoman Islam and the Advocacy of Religious Tolerance*, for the Muslim Student Association, Athens, Ohio, 2006.
  - *The Pasha of Buda and the Edict of Torda: Unitarian/Ottoman Cultural Enmeshment and the Development of Religious Toleration*, representing Collegium, the Association of Liberal Religious Scholars, UUA General Assembly, 2004.
  - *Public Libraries and Service to Diverse Religious Communities*, Ohio Library Council, September 2002.
  - *Strategic Belief: On the Impossibility of Religious Neutrality in the Secular University*, "Going Native: Recruitment and Identification in Cultural Research Conference," OSU Center

- for Folklore Studies, 1999.
- Testified as Expert Witness on religious implications of reproductive choice legislation, Ohio Senate and House Committees, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.
- *Living One's Faith in Academia: The Liberal Response*, Ohio State University Faculty Club, 1997.
- *Choice, Health, or Sin? The Religious Response to Abortion*, United Christian Center, May 1997.
- *Healing from Burnout in the Helping Role*, for Action Ohio for Battered Women Centers Directors' Retreat, Fall 1997.
- Other talks before the following associations: the Modern Language Association, the Popular Culture Association, the American Folklore Society, the Ohio State Campus Christian Fellowship, the Midwestern Modern Language Association, American Semiotics Society, the American Academy of Religion.

### **Current Book Project**

*Unitarian Pirates of the Caribbean: Historical Adventures in Unitarian Universalist Polity.* A book-length treatment of the history of congregational polity in Unitarian Universalist history with an emphasis on how lessons from this past can inform and enrich the democratic practices of our contemporary institutional life.

### **Previous Academic Appointments and Awards**

- *Lecturer in Comparative Studies/Comparative Religion*, Ohio State University, 1994-2002.
- *Adjunct Faculty*, Starr King School for the Ministry, 2006-2008.
- *Adjunct Faculty*, Eden Theological School, Missouri, 2009-2010.
- *Faculty Historian*, Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute, 2008, 2011.
- *Adjunct Faculty*, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 2006-2011.
- *Best New Research in Unitarian Universalism*, Collegium, the Association of Liberal Religious Scholars, 2004.
- *Lecturer in English*, Ohio State University, 1992-1994.
- *Associate Book Review Editor*, *Journal of American Folklore*, 1990-1994.
- *Lecturer in English*, Ohio State University, 1992-1994.
- *Assistant Professor of Speech*, College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL, 1987-1988.

**Personal and Random Additional Skills and Partial Accomplishments**

Twelve years of study in classical trumpet performance have left me with marginal ability but much musical appreciation (I am coveted as a page turner for pianists). I am a gifted plumber, and an enthusiastic but spotty amateur electrician. For a serious poet, I am accomplished regarding technology. I enjoy foolishly ambitious cooking. I live in Columbus, Ohio, with my spouse of twenty-seven years, Donna DeGeorge.