

Doing theology in Houston!

Join an innovative theology program

Between January and May 2010 Houston Unitarian Universalist congregations will participate in a unique opportunity to DO theology in a liberal religious setting.

Nationally recognized theologian, Rev. Dr. Thandeka, the author of an innovative new theology curriculum, *What Moves Us*, will kick off the curriculum in February at First UU Church, Houston.

Thandeka will personally train the facilitators on the weekends of January 9 and 16. From February through May 2010, Houston area congregations will simultaneously offer the nine other sessions of the curriculum led by the trained facilitators.

Thandeka will join us again in May for the last session and to facilitate a wrap-up and evaluation of the program.

The Houston Unitarian Universalist Theological Institute

The Houston Unitarian Universalist Theological Institute is not a place, but an opportunity! It arose out of the vision of a small group of Houston UU ministers and lay leaders with the support of our Southwestern UU Conference and the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Office of Stewardship & Development.

With a generous grant from UUA Association Sunday Campaign, the *What Moves Us* curriculum is the Institute's first offering.

The Institute's mission is to deepen the theological understanding of Unitarian Universalism, thus creating a growing pool of UU elders and articulating Unitarian Universalism's good news for a new century.

"We can be the religion for our time."

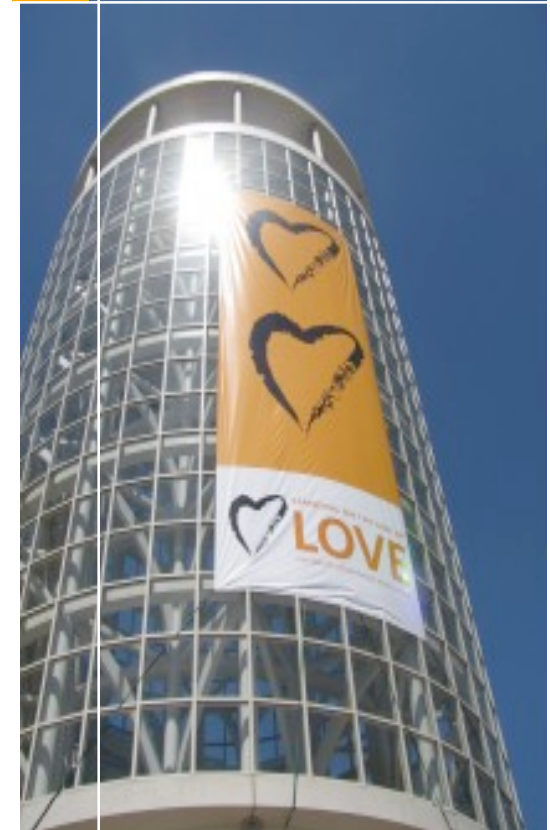
**- Rev. Peter Morales, UUA
President**

**Houston UU Theological
Institute**

<http://uutheology.org>

What Moves Us

Unitarian Universalist
Theology
January to May 2010



Thandeka

Thandeka is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, theologian, and founder of Affect Theology.

Thandeka has authored several books and has taught at San Francisco State University, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Williams College, Harvard Divinity School, and Brandeis University. She has been a Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center, and a Visiting Scholar at both the Claremont School of Theology and Union Theological Seminary .

Before receiving her doctorate in philosophy of religion and theology from the Claremont Graduate University, Thandeka was an Emmy award-winning television producer for sixteen years. She was given the !Xhosa name Thandeka, which means “beloved,” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1984.



Photo by Merrel D. Booker, Jr.



All of our theologies describe the diversity of our life experiences.
- Thandeka

What Moves Us is a program that explores the life experiences of both historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. This program offers a chance for participants to engage with and bring their personal experiences to bear upon the very questions explored by each theologian in turn. It offers not only a pathway for development of one’s own personal theology, but a deep understanding of many of the threads of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theological heritage.

What Moves Us peels back the doctrine-rich theological languages that frequently prevent us from affirming our faith experiences with one another and in the wider world. Through shared direct experiences and reflection exercises, readings and lessons, and ethical deliberations, ***What Moves Us*** creates an adult faith journey for Unitarian Universalists who want to preach and teach what they already experience but have not been able to articulate: the spiritual power of our faith.

What Moves Us includes ten 90-minute workshops in which **participants DO theology, rather than talking about it.**

Each session describes an emotion—a change of heart—experienced by a Unitarian or Universalist theologian, which moved them to a new theological understanding. Participants will examine and apply similar experiences in their own lives.

Trained facilitators will lead the curriculum at each Houston location.

The theologians and themes studied in the curriculum are:

- Hosea Ballou—Happiness
- William Ellery Channing—Human nature as divine
- Margaret Fuller—Religion of the heart
- George de Benneville—Divine love
- Charles Chauncy—Human reason
- Sophia Lyon Fahs—Religious impulse
- James Luther Adams—Faith through action
- Forrest Church—Awe and humility
- William Schulz—Organic faith
- Thandeka—Personal experience