

“In Her Words”

Introducing Jamie Kuehl, Religious Exploration Coordinator and Co-Teacher



I grew up downstate—north of Ann Arbor—in a very Catholic household, even going to Catholic school for a while. While there are many Catholic tenets I shed over the years, I retained some components for which I am grateful: the sense of the sacred, the deep satisfaction of celebrating seasonal rituals, having a community of people with similar values, and gratitude for all beings and non-beings (my favorite saints were always St. Francis of Assisi and St. Kateri Tekakwitha—the only Native American saint).

When I discovered UUism about 22 years ago, it was a perfect match. In fact, I could not believe how deeply each of the Seven Principles resonated within me. I also appreciated its literary, intellectual, and transcendentalist origins. I started taking my son to occasional services at the Brickyard Road meeting house, and adored the minister, Kayle Rice. At that time, I was working my way through a B.S. in English with a minor in Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University (NMU). Then, I went on to attain a Master’s degree in Literature (with an emphasis in Post-colonial and Native American Literatures. Now, I am currently a student in the Women’s Spirituality PhD program at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

My research interests are aligned with many of the courses I’ve taught at NMU, in the English department: Ecofeminism, Environmental Literatures, Mythology, Good Books, and many different Indian- African-, and Native-American Lit courses. Since 2014, I’ve been teaching courses for NMU’s Center for Native American Studies, my favorite of which is “Native American Cultures and the Dynamics of Religious Experience.” I am currently a contingent faculty member at NMU, and for the last 10 years, have been heavily involved in the unionization of NMU’s part time faculty. I was on the AAUP’s negotiation team this the last contract round.

Over the course of my schooling and then teaching, my busy single-mom (twice over) status only allowed for us to be occasionally involved throughout the years, but especially after my son, Jesse, went through the OWL program, I endeavored to one day be in a position to give back to the congregation that has given so much to us. This year, I made a much-needed decision to trade in my political activism on campus for more spiritually fulfilling activism, with our UU kids, and it has been absolutely wonderful so far. I have so many ideas that I can’t wait to implement, have been so grateful for Kathy Klos’ wisdom and anecdotes as co-teacher, and am deeply honored to be able to be learning as much as I am from the kids. They are wondrous beings, and true testaments to the heart and soul of the people of this congregation.

Introducing Kathryn Klos, Religious Exploration Co-Teacher



I grew up going to Sunday School at the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis and, as an adult, taught as a volunteer in the RE program there for more than ten years. When our family began attending First Universalist in Minneapolis, I taught the third grade program for three years and a junior high Justice program for part of a year.

I come from a long line of teachers, and teaching was a big part of what I did as a nurse. I am honored to be participating in the program with our young folks at MUUC.