

## Unitarian Universalism in Salina, KS

### TIMELINE

1887	The Plymouth Congregational Church reacting to Calvinism was created from a faction of the Salina Presbyterian Church
May 27, 1890	The First Unitarian Society of Salina was organized by R. A. Burch, Clara L. Burch, Clara W. Teague, Fannie Fish, Fannie T. Stowe, Aletta E. Wilson, Carrie C. Brunger, Lucretia Claflin, N. O. Eastman, W. T. Houser, George F. Brunger, and E. A. Ober.
1890	Rev. Enoch Powell of the Topeka Unitarian Church was engaged for Sunday evening meetings, but nothing permanent grew out of this early effort and for several years there was no active liberal religious organization in Salina.
1902	The Plymouth Congregational Church joined with the United Brethren Church
1910	The Plymouth Congregational Church dissolved the union with the United Brethren Church
1920	Pastor leaves creating gap in ministers
1922	The church building was leased to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The building was originally built by the Baptists in the 1880's.
1923	Church building was sold to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows
1923	Bought the old Presbyterian church at 120 South Eighth (Erected in 1892)
1923	Rev. Huber Burr became minister
1924	Plymouth Daughters organized (at some point became the Women's Alliance and affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation)
April, 1924	Professor Walter Burr (Huber's brother) preached on Sunday Mornings
December 9, 1925	H. M. Fletcher, a member of the board of trustees asked the Rev. Clifton Merritt Gray at the Topeka Unitarian for advice and counsel.
1926	Visits to the Congregational Church by Rev. Gray, Justice R. A. Burch of the State Supreme Court; by Rev. W. M. Backus of Lawrence; Dr. Claude E. Sayre of Wichita, and Dr. Curtis W. Resse of Chicago, secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference.
1926	The Plymouth Congregational church withdrew from its state organization "when the state secretary made it known that no funds to help finance a minister in Salina would be allowed and that the state organization's plan was for the property here to be sold.
February 22, 1926	Plymouth Congregational Church unanimously voted to enter the Unitarian fellowship and to join the American Unitarian Association and the Southwestern Federation of Religious Liberals. It was the fourth in Kansas after Lawrence, Wichita, and Topeka. The original Trustees were

	R.A. Muil, A.A. Shelton, Dr. J.D. Riddell, John Wilson, J. Snyder, Geo. Cruthers, and H.M. Fletcher
March 28, 1926	Rev. Clifton Merritt Gravy preached to a congregation of about one hundred people.
June 9, 1926	Rev. Bartholomew becomes minister and receives \$100 a month appropriation from the American Unitarian Association toward his salary.
June 15, 1926	Rev. Bartholomew learns there was a mistake and he is to receive \$125 a month.
June 16, 1926	Rev. Bartholomew states in a letter to Samuel A. Eliot, D.D., President of the American Unitarian Association that he plans to go to Salina even though there seems to be a little misunderstanding as to the amount the people at Salina are to raise. This may have been because “one of the Trustees at Salina is under the influence of liquor.” He ends his note by stating that he “is anticipating an interesting and enjoyable experience at Salina”
September, 1926	Rev. Bartholomew preached to 50 people with 20 in the Church School. States “I anticipate no phenomenal growth in the size of the congregation. I am prepared to work hard and to use the best judgment I possess.”
March 27-June 17, 1927	Acted as Supply Minister
March 28, 1927	Emma Lou Wilson was baptized – the first baptism in the new Unitarian church.
September, 1927 – March 24, 1929	Mr. Burke ministered for the month and then became permanent.
October 2, 1927	The church accepted a \$4,000 loan for building repair from the Unitarian Association. The church property was deeded to the Association.
March, 1928	Various members pledged to purchase 8 wall bracket lights at about \$4.50 or \$5.00 each.
April 7, 1929 – May 4, 1931	Rev. Adolph Rossbach was called to the pastorate.

April 17, 1930	The original church building at Santa Fe & Mulberry was razed to make room for the White Eagle Oil Company’s station and the IOOF’s \$25,000 lodge building.
October 25, 1931 – 1935	Rev. Robert M. Pratt ministered. He received \$3,000 per year: \$1000 of that was from local funds and \$2,000 was from the AUA. There was a special meeting on January 21, 1934 to unanimously ask him to withdraw his resignation.
September 28, 1934	The Women’s Alliance became the Evening Alliance with 18 members. Meetings are held the second and last Thursday of each Month with a covered dish supper every other time.
1935 – 1937	Mr. Benjamin F. Kimpel, a professor at Kansas Wesleyan University acted as “supply” preacher.

April 13, 1936	Voted to officially change the name from the Congregational to the First Unitarian Society as a tribute to the group organized in Salina, Kansas in 1890.
April 11, 1937 – September 10, 1939	Russell E. Simmons was minister.
February 14, 1939	Mr. Call of Chicago was present to talk about the American Unitarian Association and the yearly subsidy to the Salina church being cut off. Selling the Church was dismissed as a possibility.
September 10, 1939	Don King from Junction City paid \$10 each Sunday to conduct the service.
April 14, 1940	The congregation with 30 members present talked about selling the Church & building a smaller church. A bid of \$12,000 was offered.
September 22, 1940	There was a bid of \$14,000 reported.
Exact date unknown	The First Unitarian Society property was sold by the Real Estate Co. through the AUA office in Boston for \$6,000 without consulting the Salina group. The building was bought by the Church of God Assembly.
April 8, 1942	From the Minutes of the Women's Alliance – "The condition of the church was discussed and it was decided to pack the dishes and store them in Mrs. Brozell's basement."
1942	The Unitarian church building, 118 South Eighth, unused in the past few years, was sold to the Assembly of God Church.
March 25, 1964	Thank you letter from the Unitarian Universalist Association for the contribution to the Annual fund. It also acknowledged receiving its budget. The expected income was \$36.25 including dues, collection, and the Sunshine Bag. Expenditures including dues, Unitarian World Service, and the Abraham Lincoln Center totaled \$35.00. The balance on hand was \$1.25. Harriet R. Moses was the Treasurer.

June, 1964	Officers of the Plymouth Daughters – Mrs. A.A. Shelton, President; Mrs. Harry N. Bradley, Secretary; Mrs. Harriet N. Moses, Treasurer, Mrs. Howard (Dorothy) N. Moses, Program Chairman; Miss Ethel McArthur, Bridge Correspondent (It appears that the Bridge was the newsletter of the UU Women's Federation)
March, 1965	Sent dues to the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation of \$1.00 per member – total \$6.00. The Budget was \$30 in income and expenditures. The balance on hand had increased to \$4.60.
April, 1966	Budget had increased to \$50.61 income and \$47.00 expenditures. They continued to have 6 members.
February 9, 1967	Harriet R. Moses reported to the Women's Alliance the "Because I am leaving in three weeks for a trip around the world I want to send the yearly report to you before I go. It is a short report. We have lost members thru death and moving away, but had our meeting with me last evening."
December, 1967	Paid dues to UU Women's Federation of \$1.00 per member – total \$5.00.

April, 1968	Paid dues to UU Women's Federation of \$1.00 per member – total \$4.00.
April, 1969	Paid dues to UU Women's Federation of \$1.00 per member – total \$3.00
April 8, 1969	Harriet R. Moses/Mrs. Howard Moses reported to the UU Women's Alliance that "We have lost another member of our little Alliance group. With only three remaining we have thought it best to disband our group. Three dollars remained in our treasury which I am sending to you. Our records were placed in our Salina museum for preservation. Most Sincerely, Harriet R. Moses/Mrs. Howard N. Moses."
April 17, 1969	Response from Mrs. Woodworth L. Carpenter, President of the UU Women's Alliance – "Dear Mrs. Moses: Thank you very much for the \$3.00 representing the funds remaining in your treasury. We are sorry to hear that your unit must disband. Each and every group is precious to us, and we will miss you. With very best personal wishes to 'the remaining three.' "
Note	Thanks to Dave Lewerenz who wrote <i>The First Eight Years – An Early History of the UU Fellowship of Salina</i> . Without his efforts much of what follows would not have been possible.
March 13, 1994	Salina UU Fellowship holds first service with 12 people attending! The core group that met at the Friendship Center included Linda Nelson, Mary Handley, Rebecca Lasseter, Wesley Koehler, Weeden Nichols, Karla Mickler, Doris Bedinger and Dave Lewerenz. Adrian Melott, former UU minister and astronomy professor at Kansas University spoke on "Where did it all come from and what are we doing here?"
Summer, 1994	Meetings were held at the Labor building, 2055 South Ohio. Began looking for a smoke free meeting place and began meeting at the YWCA in September, 1994 after using the shelter house at Sunset Park.
September, 1996	Lisa Schwartz began commuting from Topeka to lead a service and meet with our board once per month.
October, 1996	Began weekly meetings, wrote mission statement, and began Radio Kansas sponsorship.
December, 1996	Began to share the building owned by Unity Church at 901 Beatrice St.
August 24, 1997	Anyone who wanted to could sign the register and be a charter member of the Fellowship. Bylaws were adopted – Thanks to Kent Johnson who did most of the work and Lisa Schwartz who guided the group through the process.
September, 1997 – June 1999	Patt Herdklotz, minister of the Wichita UU Church came on a monthly basis.
1998	We were awarded a Chalice Lighter grant that resulted in an influx of over \$5,700. We used the money to erect an outdoor sign, buy more hymnals, attract some special speakers, advertise, start a library/bookstore, develop a fellowship brochure and provide leadership training.
June, 1998	Our Internet site was launched due to the efforts of Angie Paquette.
May 2000	We began to have regular religious education for children. Our congregation has changed and grown in many ways as we have made children more a part of our program.

Spring, 1998	Salina UU Fellowship placed an advertisement in the Salina Journal that pictured the faces of a lesbian couple and a statement about the fact that the church accepted them as open homosexuals.
March 28, 1998	“Discrimination against gays is wrong” stated Wesley Koehler in a Letter to the Editor. He continues by saying “I wish to note that there are religious organizations in Salina that practice inclusiveness. The UU Fellowship of Salina welcomes people of all religious creeds, and has a tradition of appreciating human diversity.”
May 27, 1998	Salina UU Fellowship is featured in a Journal article about the Churches and Homosexuality.
January 5, 2000	Adrian Melott is mentioned in the Journal after he criticized the dropping of evolution from the state-s assessment standards as being only the beginning of a full-scale assault on education. Melott spoke at the UU Fellowship. The topic of his presentation was “The Creationist Attack on School Standards: What to expect.”
May 11, 2000	Rev. Hugh Gould, a Buddhist monk from California caused some outrage by speaking at the Salina Public Library. Gould also spoke at the UU Fellowship.

July 1, 2000	The Salina Journal published an article about Bill Martin; an associate professor of Philosophy at DePaul University in Chicago who spoke at the Fellowship. His talk was a follow-up to a Unitarian talk several weeks previous led by a Buddhist monk. The monk’s speeches in Salina triggered a community discussion and some controversy about religious doctrine.
Summer, 2001	We were welcomed as an official congregation in the UUA in the summer of 2001. Celebration of that event occurred on the weekend of October 5 and 6, with a special presentation by Liz Franklin representing the Prairie Star District and the UUA.
June, 2004	Members celebrated 10 years together and their new home which they had purchased from Unity Church. Adrian Melott, a former Unitarian minister and professor of astrophysics at the University of Kansas who gave the Fellowship’s first service was the speaker.
January, 2005	Michael Nelson became the part-time minister at the UU Fellowship. SUUF shared Nelson with the Manhattan UU Fellowship. Nelson had been away from the ministry since 1987 when he was a minister in Oklahoma City. He had left the ministry to write poetry and open a bookstore in Lawrence.
March, 2005	SUUF sponsored a lecture to talk about the proposed marriage amendment to the Kansas Constitution. Also in March Steven Baines told about 60 people at a SUUF forum that “You don’t have to be for same-sex marriage to be against a proposed constitutional amendment on marriage.”
May, 2006	Donated organ appears as contribution to the music program.
May, 2006	SUUF sponsored a workshop, “Beyond Sustainability: The Marriage of Science and Religion, an Inspiring Vision of the Next 250 Years.”
October 7, 2007	Reverend Michael Nelson resigned from his position as our part-time minister and shared with us a sermon titled, “Taking Good Care”. "Self-love,

	my liege, is not so vile a sin as self-neglecting." These words by Shakespeare are as true today as they were five hundred years ago. In many religious traditions, self-sacrifice gets the gold star. You can't take good care of your family or your Fellowship, unless you tend yourself. To do so is not a sin, but an expansive blessing.
March 22, 2009	The congregation approved calling Thea Nietfeld as our minister.
June, 2015	The Fellowship hired Barb Gutsch as our Lay Leader.