



# Practicing the Heart of Our Liberal Faith: Love Beyond Belief

*A UU Church of Chattanooga Faith Development Workshop*  
Facilitator: Thandeka

**April 25- 26, 2014**

Part One: Friday (6:30PM to 9:45PM)

Part Two: Saturday (9:30AM to 4:30PM)

Registration Required:

\$20 / \$30 after 4/20/14

Scholarships Available

## **Friday: *Discernment and Analysis of Personal Experience as the major source of our Unitarian Universalist Faith.***

This workshop explores personal and collective practices that open our hearts and our minds to insights beyond traditional religious beliefs.

### **Background:**

The 2005 Commission on Appraisal Report, *Engaging Our Theological Diversity*, found that “almost universally among UUs, personal experience is considered the most important source of religious conviction.” Theists, for example, cite personal experience to affirm the sanctity of God. Humanists, on the other hand, use personal experience to affirm the sanctity of human life. Others among us use personal experiences to affirm their Pagan, Buddhist, agnostic, Christian, or Judaic claims about the fundamental nature, value, and meaning of their lives. And still others use personal experience to define themselves simply as Unitarian Universalist. What do these experiences have in common? The COA Report did not answer this question. We will answer this question.

## **Saturday: *Exploring Personal Experience as the major source of our Unitarian Universalist Faith.***

This workshop tests the insights and conclusions gained from Part One by putting them into practice. Through a series of faith development exercises, we will explore new ways of expanding and assessing our Unitarian Universalist faith as an ongoing personal and community way of life at UUCC. Should we call these experiences “love beyond belief”? Drawing upon our own personal experiences, we will answer this question.

### **Goal**

Participants will have a deeper sense of who they are as Unitarian Universalists and an expanded sense of what they together can do.

### **The Rev. Dr. Thandeka**

Thandeka is a theologian, journalist, Emmy award-winning television producer, and congregational consultant and organizer. Creator of the “We Love Beyond Belief” project for congregations ([revthandeka.org](http://revthandeka.org)), she was given the !Xhosa name Thandeka, which means “beloved,” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1984.