

PRESS RELEASE

Contact

Kathy Stevens, Board President

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs

727-937-4682

tarponuu@hotmail.com

**HOLD FOR RELEASE**

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## **HISTORIC CHURCH CALLS NEW MINISTER**

**Tarpon Springs, FL – October 4, 2009** – The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs began its covenant with a new minister on Sunday, October 4. The Reverend Susanne Nazian is a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity Schools and has served congregations in Pt. Charlotte, St. Petersburg, and Venice. She succeeds the minister emeritus, the Rev. Weston A. Stevens.

The church was founded in 1885 and moved to the current site at the corner of Grand Boulevard and Read Street in 1909. It houses the paintings of George Inness, Jr., a noted artist who wintered in Tarpon Springs and was a member of the church. The church contains the largest single collection of his paintings. Docents are present each afternoon during the winter season to lead tours of the impressive paintings.

Unitarian Universalism is a creedless faith that allows each person to rely on their own spiritual experience, human reason, and the right of conscience to form their own authentic faith. “It’s a different sort of church,” Rev. Nazian remarked. “We are blessed to have a faith that nurtures human spirits while it strives to heal the world. We believe that all faiths contain truths, and we foster interfaith cooperation.”

Rev. Nazian remarked, “It’s a pleasure to serve the oldest Unitarian Universalist Church in Florida. The church is rich in history, and yet looks forward to the future with anticipation.”

Services are at 10:30 Sunday morning. Classes for children will begin November 1. For more information or to speak with Rev. Nazian, call the church at 727-937-4682 or e mail tarponuu@hotmail.com.

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