



Comments from a few of those who have attended some of the UCCN conferences over the last 10 years.



If you really want to get your Unitarian community noticed the UCCN is a must. Sessions not only look at how we communicate with our current congregation, welcome new people and reach out to the local community but offer very practical and workable solutions. I have attended several weekends over the years and each time I come back with new ideas.

*Helen Merritt  
Wirral Unitarians*

The UCCN conference seems to happen purely through the goodwill of those who come together to share ideas and resources. It never fails to amaze me that it happens without committee, secretary, treasury or any signs of officialdom. That doesn't mean that the quality of information about all things connected with communication isn't top notch. Everyone who attends a UCCN weekend learns something that will be useful in communicating with other Unitarians and also identifying the best, tested ways of reaching out to those who may be interested in learning more about us. Ranging from quality newsletters, press releases, getting our voice heard on the radio, internet/website and blogging and of course presentation of our chapels, notice boards and not forgetting the best ways to welcome newcomers - so the full spectrum of communication is covered. In the rapidly developing world of information technology the UCCN conference offers individuals and congregations an opportunity to keep in touch with each other and the world of communication we now live in. Besides all this, the weekend is always great fun.

*Joan Wilkinson  
National Unitarian Fellowship*



A UCCN weekend is about solving problems, rather than talking about solving problems. There are always new things to learn and ideas to borrow. And the people are great.

*Angela Maher  
Birmingham New Street Unitarians*



I attended one of the annual UCCN conferences at Great Hucklow where the central theme was "Raising our Profile". The presentation and discussion sessions examined ways in which our Unitarian profile can be raised - nationally, in print, pictorially, on the web and locally. I found it really stimulating, and came back full of enthusiasm with lots of ideas and ways in which we could raise our profile at my local Church, some of which we have since put into practice. It was good to hear from other congregations about initiatives they had undertaken which turned out to be successful. And I found out about the UCCN website ([www.uccn.org.uk](http://www.uccn.org.uk)) which contains a "Publicity Guide" that has very helpful and encouraging ideas. Probably the most important message to come out of this conference was that it is possible to make a positive difference to our "public profile" or "our image", both nationally and locally. It was pointed out that whether we intend it or not - or like it or not - we do have a public image. What we need to do is to make sure that it is a positive image and that we use it appropriately and to our advantage in achieving our aims. The Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire is a wonderful venue for this type of event, and it is very inspiring to chat with Unitarians from many other congregations and to discuss ideas.

*John Reid  
St Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh*



#### Images

*Left: Conference delegates during a practical IT workshop to produce publicity posters.*

*Overleaf: the conference venue and sessions on 'getting on local radio' and 'raising your profile'.*

## Who we are

The UCCN is a self-help network of people with a common goal - to help their Unitarian congregation or society gain more publicity and thus raise the profile of the movement locally and nationally.

UCCN runs a conference every year at the Unitarian centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, called the Nightingale Centre. Anyone interested in learning how to promote Unitarian events can attend.

During the rest of the year, the network helps solve publicity related issues by putting people in touch with those with the required expertise - there is always someone who can help!

There is no membership, the network exists to help anyone they can.

For contact details and information about the conference, please go to our website at:

**[www.uccn.org.uk](http://www.uccn.org.uk)**

## Are you a Unitarian without knowing it?

These are the essentials of the values we share...

*We believe that:*

- \* Everyone has the right to seek truth and meaning for themselves.
- \* The fundamental tools for doing this are your life experiences, your reflection upon it, your intuitive understanding and the promptings of your own conscience.
- \* The best setting for this is a community that welcomes you for who you are, complete with your beliefs, doubts and questions.
- \* In the spirit of civil and religious liberty, equality of respect and opportunity is for everyone.

If you would like information on the UK Unitarian movement please contact:

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**[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)**

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## Unitarian Communication Co-ordinators' Network

*Who we are  
and what we do*

**[www.uccn.org.uk](http://www.uccn.org.uk)**