

## UNITARIAN ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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### CONTENT

#### 1. ON ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITARIAN ACADEMY

##### 1.1. Unitarian Academy during its second year

##### 1.2. Outlook for the coming years

#### 2. SUMMARIES

##### 2.1. Organization, personnel, economy

##### 2.2. Training, publications, presentations

#### 3. CONCLUSION

### 1. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITARIAN ACADEMY

#### 1.1. UNITARIAN ACADEMY DURING ITS SECOND YEAR

This recapitulating report is a short description and evaluation of the activities of the Unitarian Academy (UA) in its second year of existence. UA was established as educational institution of the NSČU. What happened, did it achieve the goals, set for 2018, and if so, to what extent?

In 2018, two educational retreats took place. The spring module *Service*, in combination with follow-up module *Context of Worship* took place in the House of Guests of the Broumov Monastery 23.-25.3. (compulsory module) and 21.-22. (follow-up module). The main topic of the basic module was service of Unitarian community to its members – in the form of internal communication and overlap of the community. We discussed this topic as different forms of work with community members, and from the perspective of support service of the umbrella organizations, given to individual communities. The follow-up module was dedicated to two important questions: How does in our times change the sense and aim of community? How does the community realize its sense and aim through its ceremonies and rituals?

In the spring educational retreat took part twenty-one students, nine teachers, two non-lecturing study guarantors, and all members of the UA management. Foreign lecturers at the spring module were: **Rev. Derek McAuley**, chief secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches; **Rev. John Midgley**, publicist and former president of the same organisation; and **Rev. Celia Midgley**. American Unitarians were represented by **Rev. Dana Lightsey** from High Plains Church, Colorado, US.

Autumn educational retreat took place in University centre of the Masaryk University in Telč in 17.-18. 10. 2018 and 19. – 21. 10. 2018. It was devoted to the theme *Education* (basic module) and *Sermon and work with text* (follow-up module). Education was considered from the view of its meaning for spiritual community and for individuals; we discussed differences of work with various age and social groups; and get acquainted with the basis of pedagogic work. In the follow-up module, different traditions, forms and goals of sermon were discussed; the role of sermon in context of heading of the community. We further studied preparations for sermon, choose of topic(s), sources and interpretation techniques; these were practically tried in several workshops.

In this retreat took part twenty-four students and eight teachers. And again, among the foreign lecturers were significant Unitarian personalities: **Rev. Dr. Diana K. Davies**, main minister of the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma, US, and member of the board of directors of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, Illinois; **Rev. John Harley**, minister of Bristol Unitarians, UK, and long-time coordinator of British Unitarian youth; **Rev. Kathleen Rolenz**, chief minister in the Unitarian Church of Annapolis (Maryland, US); **Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason**, former active minister and now member of management of the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago; and Rev. Sarah

Tinker, minister of the London church Kensington Unitarians and head of the section for minister education of the British Unitarian headquarters.

In total, UA had to 31.12.2018 thirty-one students (ten of them in follow-up program for ministry candidates). Long-time systematic work in promotion and widening of translation activities at all the modules is gradually bringing first students from foreign Unitarian organizations.

To mention other activities of the UA in 2018, we succeeded in completion of official requirements for the mentor communities, and first students in the N module started their practical part in two communities. We are successfully working on plans for cooperation with American Unitarian educational institutions - Meadville Lombard Theological School and Starr King School for the Ministry. We visited both institutions again, gradually are working on specification of cooperation conditions in the form of common memoranda. We are also in the process of opening cooperation with the Protestant Theological Institute in Koloszvár. Also, promotions of UA among European Unitarians seem to be successful. In the mid of July (15. – 19. 7.) Petr Samojský and Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová travelled to Netherlands and Belgium to meet with representatives of Unitarians and open-minded religious groups in these countries and talked with them about possible participation of their members, as lecturers or students. UA was promoted at the EUU retreat in Cologne. Besides promotion of the UA and Czech Unitarianism in general, the travels were beneficial in making international contacts and in shooting informational film documents on Unitarian themes. In total, eleven film documents of the edition "Unitarian horizons" (*Unitářské rozhledy*), all of them in Czech with English subtitles. Promotional video of the Unitarian Academy has its English dubbed form. Gradually, we are working on further educational and informative movies. Since 2019, all the movies will be available on our YouTube channel, in following thematic editions: Unitarian and Universalist churches and groups worldwide; Special events; Unitarian organizations and educational institutions; History of world Unitarianism. We started also a Facebook site of the UA: [www.facebook.com/unitarian.academy/](http://www.facebook.com/unitarian.academy/), in Czech and English.

Anyhow, there is an important item we have not realized yet: start with the planned facultative module of practical spiritual exercises. In present, we have secured the organizational part of its first summer course and its date is given. When asking, how the UA was doing in the second year of its existence, we can conclude, that it was a good and successful year. The main goals, i.e., maintain good quality of education and vital program of basic and follow-up modules were fulfilled. After initial euphoria, the UA comes in the phase of operation mode. However, it can be said, that from one module to the other, we achieved many improvements in organization and contents. Activities and development of the UA did not slow down their step and we maintained vividness and attractivity of individual programs. UA can serve to the spread and cultivation of the ideals of free faith and help integration in the NSČU.

*Michal Kohout*

## **1.2. OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEARS**

Unitarian Academy as a whole, i.e., its management, students, and supporters, are making together a dynamic team and creative environment, where new impulses occur nearly unbidden. Consequently, there is not scarce of impulses, but even now it is obvious, that their realization in next year will be a great challenge. Ideas, impulses and practical issues must be not the business of professionals and NSČU staff only, but also of members, sympathizers, and volunteers. These are our short- and long-time tasks and aims:

- Start with regular organization of educational retreats of the module Practical spiritual exercises.
- Strengthen systematic work on the module Stay abroad.
- Finalize conditions of cooperation with foreign Unitarian educational institutions Meadville Lombard Theological School, Starr King School for the Ministry and Koloszvári Protestáns Teológiai Intézet.
- Extend and promote the offer of YouTube videos; improve its arrangement.
- Extend promotion on Facebook.
- Prepare evaluation of the first study cycle of the Unitarian Academy and modify preparations for the second cycle according to its results.

- According to practical experiences with different places of retreats, choose a suitable method of finding places for next modules.
- In long-term perspective consider possible further professionalization of the Unitarian Academy.
- Promote offer of study, especially among European Unitarians.
- Practical experiences, questions, challenges, and problems should be, if possible, consulted with partners in foreign educational institutions.

In this summary must be mentioned the need of monitoring views and impressions of participants, lecturers and consider advice of an independent collegium of personalities, active at similar educational institutions. In this, we count also on cooperation with foreign educational institutions, that have long-years professional management and possess practical experiences.

*Petr Samojský*

## 2. SUMMARIES

### 2.1. ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL, ECONOMY

#### UNITARIAN ACADEMY MANAGEMENT:

##### ***Director:***

- prof. Ing. arch. Michal Kohout, elected for the period 2017-2019 on the basis of a tender

##### ***Unitarian Academy Working Committee:***

- prof. Ing. arch. Michal Kohout
- Rev. Petr Samojský, D.Min.
- PhDr. Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová

##### ***Unitarian Academy Commission (study guarantors):***

- Mgr. Štěpán Mairovský, elected for the period 2017-2018 on the basis of a tender, resigned with a letter in June 2018.
- PhDr. Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová, elected by the Central administrative board 12. 8. 2018 after the resignation of Mgr. Štěpán Mairovský.
- Rev. Mgr. Vlastimil Krejčí.
- Rev. Petr Samojský, D.Min.
- PhDr. Jana Tichá, Ph.D.
- Mgr. Jiří Motl, Ph.D.

- Mgr. Filip Jaroš, Ph.D.

#### STUDENTS

To the 31. 12. 2018, there are 31 students enrolled, 28 of them in process of active studies. 10 students did for various reasons leave their studies during 2018.

#### ECONOMICS

In 2018, total expenses of the Unitarian Academy made up 398,172 CZK.

In 2018, total incomes of the Unitarian Academy were 531,003 CZK (including balance from 2017).

To the 31.12.2018, the Unitarian academy has at its disposal 132,831 CZK.

#### OUR SUPPORTERS

In 2018, the Unitarian Academy received financial support from:

- The Religious Society of Czech Unitarians (NSČU) – 350,000 CZK.
- American Unitarian Universalist Association – 116,297 CZK.

- Private donors – 4,500 CZK.

*We thank to all our donors for their kind contributions supporting our activities!*

#### DETAILED ECONOMIC SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 2018

##### **Incomes:**

Balance from 2018:	25,206 CZK
NSČU:	350,000 CZK
External grants	116,297 CZK
Payments for diets and accommodation:	35,000 CZK
Gifts:	4,500 CZK
<b>Total:</b>	<b>531,003 CZK</b>

##### **Expenses:**

Accommodation and diets (breakfast; lunch):	148,770 CZK
	(Partly covered by students.)
Translations:	36,689 CZK
Preparations of common dinners and coffee breaks:	7,663 CZK
Travel expenses for foreign lecturers:	84,345 CZK
Travel expenses (Czech Republic):	10,305 CZK
Rewards for guarantors:	24,000 CZK
Honorarium for lecturers:	9,500 CZK
<b>Total:</b>	<b>398,172 CZK</b>

*We thank all foreign lecturers for their decision to give their lectures for free, and especially to those, who did even refuse covering of their travel expenses. We express our thanks also to those guarantors and members of the management group who work for our Academy voluntarily, and those, who refused covering of their travel expenses. Thanks to their support, the Unitarian Academy saved in 2018 approximately 70,000 CZK, that will be used for further improvement of our activities.*

*Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová*

## **2.2. TRAINING, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS**

Modules studied in 2018

Spring educational retreat

##### **Teachers:**

Derek McAuley, chief secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (UK).

Rev. Dana Lightsey, High Plains Church, Colorado, US.

Rev. John Midgley, journalist, former president of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Rev. Celia Midgley, long-time member of the ICUU board.

Rev. Petr Samojský, D.Min., Unitarian Academy.

PhDr. Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová, head of the ÚSS NSČU.

Rev. Vlastimil Krejčí, Unitarian Academy.

Mgr. Karel Frynta, lawyer.

Mgr. Lucie Fulínová, teacher.

##### **Module N – Worship in context**

Opened with the educational retreat in Broumov,

21. – 22. 3. 2018

*Lectures:*

### **Unitarian community and worship activities**

Aim and sense of community / Gathering in postmodern times, the notion of conscience of community / Derek McAuley.

Aim and sense of community / Foundations of the Unitarian community and its uniting elements (personal growth, justice, social issues, uniting liturgic elements) / John Midgley.

Aim and sense of community / uniting elements in practice (workshop) / Petr Samojský.

Aim and sense of worship activity / General historical overview + the notion of ministry across the Unitarian world (lecture + video) / Petr Samojský.

### **Spiritual gathering, rituals**

Spiritual gathering / role of priest; tasks of minister, authenticity, natural character (discussion) / Vlastimil Krejčí.

Worship and its leading / What does make a worship (main and additional parts), what is necessary for preparations of a worship / Dana Lightsey.

Worship and its leading / liturgic stability vs. liturgic variability; intimacy vs. public character of the space and time / Petr Samojský.

Worship and its leading / Attributes of minister (cloths, appearance, impression, behaviour, additional objects) / Dana Lightsey.

Unitarian rituals / Basic typology including the basic scheme for leading any type of ritual / Vlastimil Krejčí.

Unitarian rituals / Rites and rituals, prescriptions and customs (discussion) / John Midgley, Celia Midgley.

Special rights of the NSČU / Their legal significance and exercise / Pavel Frynta.

### **Service**

Opened with the educational retreat in Broumov, 23. – 25. 3. 2018

### **Lectures:**

#### **Community and its overlap into public sphere**

Multicultural community / Reality of postmodern times, ethic issues of the society and our contribution to their solutions / Derek McAuley.

Multicultural community / multigenerational and multicultural programs, necessity to perceive the service (and relationships and life) as meaningful / John Midgley.

Multicultural community / Czech specific: withdrawnness vs. open environment (workshop) / Vlastimil Krejčí.

Public representation / The meaning of representation, private sphere vs. public role / Derek McAuley.

Public representation / Personal limits / Dana Lightsey.

Public speech / Ways of speech, including differences between leadership of lay people and minister / John Midgley, Celia Midgley.

Public speech / Work with text, technique of speech (workshop) / Lucie Fulínová.

#### **Programs and work for the community members**

Unitarian worship / The value of specific liturgy and openness of the system, comparison to other traditions / Dana Lightsey.

Unitarian worship / Tradition vs. custom, dynamics of changes (positives, negatives) – involvement of the community in making of worship / Petr Samojský.

Unitarian worship / Symbolics and creative work with symbols (workshop) / Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová.

Other programs as a kind of service for community members (members-only lectures, workshops, Circles of sharing and others) / Petr Samojský.

Other programs as a kind of service for community members (Circles of sharing – workshop) / organized by Petr Samojský.

Pastoral work / Ways of interaction, tools of pastoral work / Petr Samojský.  
Pastoral work / How to make an atmosphere of confidence? (workshop) / Vlastimil Krejčí.

### **Institutionalized supported service for communities**

Service for communities / Role of international organizations and institutions / John Midgley, Celia Midgley.

Service for communities / Role of supra regional organizations and institutions (GB) / Derek Mc Auley.

Service for communities / Role of supra regional organizations and institutions (US) / Dana Lightsey.

Service for communities / Role of supra regional organizations and institutions (Czech Republic) / Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová.

Service for communities / Role of supra regional organizations and institutions (discussion) / hosted by Michal Kohout.

### **AUTUMN EDUCATIONAL RETREAT**

#### **Teachers:**

Rev. Dr. Diana Davies, First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, Meadville Lombard Theological School. US.

Rev. John Harley, Bristol Unitarians, UK.

Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason, Meadville Lombard Theological School. US.

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Unitarian universalist Church of Annapolis, US.

Rev. Sarah Tinker, Kensington Unitarians, UK.

Rev. Petr Samojský, D.Min., Unitarian Academy.

PhDr. Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová, head of the ÚSS NSČU.

Mgr. Bára Procházková, professional journalist.

Module N – Part “Speech and work with text”

Opened with educational retreat in Telč, 17. – 18. 10. 2018.

#### **Lectures:**

##### **The aim and sense of a speech**

Tradition / Where does speech come from; freedom of the pulpit and of auditorium banks / Wayne Arnason.

Form / Sermon, lecture, and other forms of presentation / Petr Samojský.

Community / Sermon in the context of community program, theme(s) of the speech, therapeutic effect of the speech and other goals / Sarah Tinker.

##### **Preparations of speech**

Sources / Where draw inspiration from; key to the choose of topics, friends, and social group as a source of impulses; shall we rather build on personal experience or objective facts? / Sarah Tinker.

Methods of preparations and presentation / textual exegesis / Petr Samojský.

Methods of preparations and presentation / dramatic reading, off-hand speech / Kathleen Rolenz, Wayne Arnason.

Interpretation / How to find own style + practical illustrations / Petr Samojský.

Preparation of the speech – workshop / Petr Samojský.

### **EDUCATION**

Opened with educational workshop in Telč, 19. - 21. 10. 2018.

#### **Lectures:**

##### **Importance of education in the Unitarian community**

Importance of education / Contribution of Unitarian communities to the level of education in general, role of ministers / Petr Samojský.

Importance of education / Lifelong learning in ministers / Wayne Arnason.

Importance of education / Path to a conscious and responsible community, lifelong education of leaders, active members, volunteers (information, awareness, comprehending of sense, competency/ Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová.

Human life as a whole / What can a community do as prevention of personal crisis? / Kathleen Rolenz.

Human life as a whole / Important moments in human life, rites of passage (birth, maturity, wedding, divorce, illness, old age, death...) / Diana Davies.

Human life as a whole / Programs for personal sharing and support (theory and practical illustrations) / Kathleen Rolenz.

### **Education and work with members**

Children / Making a program for children, offer of curriculum, didactic tools, requisites, activities / Petr Samojský.

Children / Work with parents, work with volunteers / Diana Davies.

Programs for addressing of public (workshop) / Bára Procházková.

Youth / Making a supportive and respecting framework for work with young people / John Harley.

Youth / Examples of programs, sources / John Harley.

Adults / Programs meeting the needs and interests of members / Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová.

Adults / Programs leading to membership growth / Kristýna Ledererová kolajová.

### **Pedagogy and Unitarian community**

Theory / Educational goals and competences / John Harley.

Theory / Methods and forms of education and teaching / Diana Davies.

Practice / Presentative skills: verbal, and non-verbal communication / John Harley.

Practice / Making and structure of an educational program / Diana Davies.

Practice / preparation, leading and evaluation of work with a group / Diana Davies.

### **WEB OF THE UNITARIAN ACADEMY**

Website: [www.unitarska-akademie.cz](http://www.unitarska-akademie.cz), including English version.

Intranet of the Unitarian Academy: [intranet.unitarska-akademie.cz](http://intranet.unitarska-akademie.cz).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unitarian.academy/](https://www.facebook.com/unitarian.academy/).

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzaRSG020pvbrM\\_szLe2ydQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzaRSG020pvbrM_szLe2ydQ).

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### ***Promotion materials:***

- Leaflet The Unitarian Academy – Religious Education for the Open-minded (Czech).
- Leaflet The Unitarian Academy – Religious Education for the Open-minded (English).

#### ***Working materials for students:***

- P3 Module Educational Retreat, Service. Guidebook. Unitarian Academy 2018, 30 p. (Czech).
- P4, Education Module Educational Retreat. Guidebook. Unitarian Academy 2018, 36 p. (Czech).
- P3 Module Educational Retreat, Service. Guidebook. Unitarian Academy 2018, 30 p. (English).
- P4, Education Module Educational Retreat. Guidebook. Unitarian Academy 2018, 36 p. (English).
- N Module Educational Retreat, Sermon and Working with Text, Guidebook, Unitarian Academy 2018, 15 p. (Czech).
- N Module Educational Retreat, Context of Worship, Unitarian Academy 2018, 35 p. (Czech).
- N Module Educational Retreat, Sermon and Working with Text, Guidebook, Unitarian Academy 2018, 15 p. (English).
- N Module Educational Retreat, Context of Worship, Unitarian Academy 2018, 35 p. (English).

Other working and study materials are published in Czech and English electronically in the pdf format at the intranet of the Unitarian Academy.

*Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová*

## UNITARIAN UA LECTORS IN 2018

### **Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason**

After finishing his active ministry service recently, he is active in the board of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. For a certain period of his long-time career, he worked also as head of professional group Association of American Unitarian and Universalist Ministers.

With K. Rolenz they wrote a book about Unitarian and Universalist worship entitled *Worship that Works*. Together, they also edited a publication about contemporary Christian and Buddhist voices in American Unitarianism.

### **Rev. Dr. Diana K. Davies**

She is the main minister of the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma, US. She is also member of the board of directors of the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, Illinois. Before starting her activities in Oklahoma, she served as minister of the Unitarian and Universalist Church in Charleston (Maryland). She was ordained in 2017, after absolving the Meadville Lombard Theological School. During her studies, she received a special award for History and Philosophy of Religion.

Before becoming a minister, she worked as professor of Russian literature and Comparative history of literature. In this field, she received Ph.D. She is respected specialist in the field of international education. Her most recent position in university education was vice-president for international initiatives at Princeton University. There she led the project of campus internationalization, led all international partnerships, and supervised educational centres in China and Kenya. In 2017, she worked as a consultant for Meadville Lombard Theological School. There she co-organized all international educational programs, secured cooperation with Unitarian and Universalist organizations abroad.

### **Rev. John Harley**

Since 2017, John is minister of Unitarian church of Bristol Unitarians (Great Britain). Before, he was active as coordinator of activities of the British Unitarian youth for nearly fifteen years. He helped organize the National Youth Programme, focused on activities for young Unitarians in the age between 7 – 17.

He works also as a teacher of art and as a drama therapist, organizing workshops and other educational activities discovering art and spirituality. He likes to bring creativity and motion in his work.

### **Mgr. Vlastimil Krejčí**

He studied Teaching at the Hussite Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Prague. Before, he had worked for six years in education of adults. His long-term interest is the topic of self-management and personal growth. Therefore, he absolved many self-management seminars and a coach-training. Nowadays, he works as a minister for the NSČU, in the community in Teplice. His profession, hobbies and spiritual praxis do suitably meet in his past-time archery.

### **PhDr. Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová**

A historian, editor. She studied at the Historical Institute of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, her subject was the History of Culture. Her doctor's degree she achieved in the field Czech History. After her studies, she worked in the National Heritage Board as the head of the Department of presentation and specialized promotion, later as expert redactor and editor of the magazine "Preservation of Document Reports" (*Zprávy Památkové péče*). Since 2015, she is the head of the "Religious Society of Czech Unitarians" (Náboženská společnost českých unitářů). In this organization, she works in the field of education, publishing, and promotion. Since 2012 she leads and edits the magazine "Creative Life" (*Tvůrčí život*), regularly contributing in it.

### **Rev. Dana Lightsey**

Since 2014, she works as minister in the Unitarian High Plains Church, Colorado, US. She was ordained in 2019 and her first minister place was Unitarian and Universalist Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Between 2012 and 2014 she worked as second minister in Jefferson's Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. Before becoming a minister, she was a music teacher for seventeen years.

#### **Mgr. Derek McAuley**

Since 2009 he is the chief secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Recently, he is active in the project for professional preparation and education of British Unitarian ministers and for lay leadership of the communities. He was born in North Ireland and studied at the Queens' University in Belfast, Politic science, and Economy. After he continued at the University of Liverpool, where he studied Social care and Management. At first, he was professionally engaged in management of societies providing health care, after he worked in the field of mental health and public service in south-west England. Between 2013-14 he worked as member of administrative board of the Society for interreligious dialogue in United Kingdom; it is an organization supported directly by the UK government. Recently he is head of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) for Europe and Middle East. He is also an advocate of the rights of same-sex couples. He is member of the Royal Society of Arts and member of the management of the society McDouglas Trust, that supports human rights worldwide.

#### **Rev. John Midgley**

Publicist, former president of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. He is an emeriti Unitarian minister. After receiving his ordination, he was teaching at the Unitarian College in Manchester for more than twenty years. He also taught at the University of Manchester. As minister, he was serving in various Unitarian churches in north-west England for more than forty years. After leaving active minister service, he was active as head of the board of British Unitarian magazine Inquirer. He still belongs to regular correspondents of this magazine. He also wrote several book about Unitarianism.

#### **Rev. Celia Midgley**

British emeriti Unitarian minister. After absolving her university studies in Manchester, she worked as a teacher. After, she became secretary for religious education of youth for the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. More than twenty years she spent in active minister service, mostly in Unitarian churches of north-west of England. Now she works as a secretary for British professional Association of Unitarian ministers. For many years, she works in the ICUU board.

#### **Rev. M. Div. Petr Samojský, D. Min.**

He is a minister of NSČU. His master's degree he received at the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and his doctor's degree at the Chicago Theological Seminary. For a long time, he has been occupied with systematic Unitarian education of ministry and laymen leaders. He is active in the field of international Unitarian activities. He is the author of many studies on the personality of N. F. Čapek and early Unitarianism in the Czechoslovakia, written in Czech and English. He is the author of the books "Spirituality (not only) for sceptics" (*Spiritualita (nejen) pro skeptiky*), "The Adventure Called Wedding" (*Dobrodružství zvané svatba*), "Landscape as a Spiritual Heritage" (*Krajina jako duchovní dědictví*) and co-author of books "Do we know, that we are not alone? Three Pillars of the Unitarian Theology" (*Víme, že nejsme sai? Tři pilíře unitářské teologie*), "At the Coast of the Ocean of Truth" (*Na pobřeží Oceánu Pravdy*) and editor of the publication "It is beautiful to live" (*Krásně je žít*).

#### **Rev. Sarah Tinker**

Since 2005, Sarah is a minister in London church Kensington Unitarians – the church with longest Unitarian tradition in Great Britain. (It was founded by Theophil Lindsey in 1775.) Sarah is actively contributing to progress of educational programs for British Unitarian ministers and lay leaders.

She comes from a family of teachers, has university pedagogic qualification and she worked as educator. For British Unitarians she started working at national level firstly as secretary for religious education and youth. After she finished her studies at the Unitarian College in Manchester and became a minister. Now she is head of the section for education of ministers by the main organisation of British Unitarians. She also contributed to new materials for British Unitarian course, focused on preparation and leading of worships.

As guests contributed to the UA activities also external lecturers: lawyer Mgr. Pavel Frynta, educator Mgr. Lucie Fulínová and politic scientist and expert journalist Mgr. Bára Procházková.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

At the end of second year of the Unitarian Academy we owe our thanks to all those, who contributed to the successful functioning of our institution. Besides members of the working committee of the UA commission – Kristýna Ledererová Kolajová and Petr Samojský – we express our thanks to non-Unitarian experts: Jiří Motl and Filip Jaroš and active lay Unitarians: Štěpán Mairovský (who resigned from his post in the middle of the past year), Jana Tichá and the minister of the Unitarian community in Teplice, Vlastimil Krejčí. UA thanks to the community of Prague Unitarians and The International Unitarian Church of Prague and their leaders: after meeting all requirements needed, they work as organizations, where students preparing for their ministry service can complete practical part of their studies.

We thank to all our foreign lecturers. Most of them works voluntarily, some of them even refusing payment of travel costs. They all are great examples of generous approach as well as professionalism connected with frank effort to support the idea, they believe in. It is appropriate to thank all the team of the NSČU headquarters for perfect organization.

Of course, we thank to all institutions and private donors. At first place, to our mother organization and our main supporter – NSČU. Important amount was generously donated to us by the American Association of Unitarians and Universalists.

Thanks to all of them for their interest, enthusiasm, and warm atmosphere we enjoyed at both educational retreats. And thanks to all UA students, whose study efforts and involvement in the UA activities give sense to the very existence of our institution.

*Michal Kohout*