

# Searching for an inspiring, thought-provoking speaker?

## Meet Melanie Davis, EdD, CSE

Melanie's services are journeys in words and music that encourage self-examination and acceptance as well as personal and spiritual growth.

In consultation with host congregations, she provides opening and closing words, readings, meditations, sermons and hymns. A gifted singer, she performs preludes and musical interludes as well. Congregations are welcome to host Melanie's educational programs or workshops following a service; these events can serve as a community outreach opportunity.

Melanie is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and founding member of the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, where she is a lay speaker, soloist, choir member, and co-chair of the Health Ministry program. She has facilitated the Our Whole Lives lifespan sexuality course for her congregation since 1999.

She co-authored *Principled Commitment*, a relationship enrichment curriculum commissioned by the Unitarian Universalist Association. She also wrote *Sexuality Talking Points: A guide toward thoughtful conversation between parents and children* and blogs on parent-child communication and adult sexuality and relationships.

Melanie founded Honest Exchange LLC, a sexuality consulting firm specializing in teen and adult education, training for healthcare providers and educators, and college speaking. She is a founding partner in the New Jersey Center for Sexual Wellness and teaches at Moravian College.

Melanie holds an EdD in human sexuality education and a BA in Mass Communication. She is an AASECT-Certified Sexuality Educator and NCAA-approved Health & Safety Speaker.

*Member:* Consortium on Sexuality and Aging (Coordinator); Advanced Sexuality Educators and Trainers; UU Curriculum and Resource Developers; American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT); Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.

Please direct inquiries about services and workshops to

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### Current Service Themes

#### ***Answering the Call***

Melanie uses the 4<sup>th</sup> UU principle to encourage listeners to imagine the possibilities for their personal growth. This sermon is based on Melanie's journey from being her congregation's youth sex educator to becoming a professional sexuality education consultant who approaches her work as a ministry.

#### ***The Abstract Art of Parenting***

Explore how the 2<sup>nd</sup> UU principal can be expressed in the parenting of children, oneself, siblings, aging parents, and the Earth. Explore how all kinds of parenting can be practiced with compassion, creativity, and commitment.

#### ***A UU Take on Faith & Miracles***

Words can trigger emotional responses related to a listener's spiritual journey. Learn how two hot-button words can be relevant to the lives and beliefs of religious liberals.

#### ***Honoring Your Inherent Worth & Dignity***

The 1<sup>st</sup> UU principle entreats us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people; however, we may neglect to affirm our own. Melanie offers a spiritual framework for recognizing one's own value through a new, affirmative language of self-talk.

### Congregations are saying...

*"I heard very positive feedback about your sermon and your beautiful voice. You offered a magical package: beautiful songs, both touching and uplifting; a great story for the kids (you are a gifted story teller); and an inspiring sermon that was really worth hearing and remembering."*

*Jack Drucker, Unitarian Church of Montclair (NJ)*

*"Melanie looks at things in a new way and delivers a message that is accessible to everyone. She was also very easy to work with: She prepares complete services but was very flexible regarding our congregation's needs."*

*Kelly Jin-Hendel, UU Congregation of Queens (NY)*

*"I just wanted to thank you again for your beautiful service last Sunday. Our Fellowship loved your heartfelt message, your singing, and your vibrant personality."*

*Jim Ellasenor, UU Congregation of the Poconos (PA)*

*"You really changed my way of thinking about faith. I do have so much faith. I have faith in the power of love and caring we give and receive. I have a faith that the next generation will carry on and change the world for the better. I felt blessed hearing you on Sunday."*

*Linda Darks, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (WA)*