

**Partner Churches:  
First Unitarian Church/Kolozsvár and King's Chapel/Boston  
1922-2014**

More than 90 years ago, a unique and historic partnership was created between King's Chapel, the first Unitarian church in America, and the Unitarian church in Kolozsvár, Transylvania, the first Unitarian church in Europe. Though frequently interrupted, this relationship has endured and has strengthened in recent years as highlighted below.

**1922** - In the wake of World War I, a commission of Unitarian ministers toured the beleaguered Unitarian churches of Transylvania, a formerly Hungarian region annexed to Romania by post-war treaty. One member of that commission was Rev. Palfrey Perkins, later to serve as King's Chapel's minister for 22 years. Other members of the commission had King's Chapel connections as well. In response to the destruction and poverty observed by these visitors, a number of "sister church" pairings were established in the 1920's between Transylvanian and U.S. churches, including the King's Chapel/Kolozsvár partnership. That relationship, though robust in early years, suffered the disruption of a world-wide depression, followed by WWII and Soviet occupation, but nonetheless survived to flower again in the latter decades of the twentieth century.

**1978** - Rev. Carl Scovel, minister of King's Chapel, visited Kolozsvár, renewing our sister church relationship. Communications in subsequent years included visits by King's Chapel lay members.

**1997** - A delegation of King's Chapel members, led by Carl Scovel, visited the Kolozsvár church and its new minister, the Rev. Ferenc Balint-Benczedi, who now serves as Bishop of the entire Transylvanian Unitarian Church.

**1998** - Rev. Balint-Benczedi and his wife visited Boston; he preached at King's Chapel.

**2006** - Visitors from King's Chapel, including Rev. Earl Holt and Senior Warden Denton Crews, attended celebration of the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kolozsvár church.

**2007** - King's Chapel's Partner Church Committee, building on 2006 meetings with the Kolozsvár minister and lay leadership, began raising funds for a building project (renovation of their parish house attic); these funds are held in escrow by King's Chapel pending development of final plans.

**2008** - Sixteen King's Chapel members, led by Peter Sexton, participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project in Kolozsvár, and visited our partner church, its minister and members.

**2010** - Planning and attendant fundraising commenced to bring about "Ministerial Exchange" visits between King's Chapel and Kolozsvár in future years.

**2011** - A second King's Chapel-led Habitat building team visited Kolozsvár, again with participation in meetings and other events in celebration of our partnership.

**2011-2014** - In addition to our annual "Partner Church Sundays," an active dialogue with the Kolozsvár Church continues, especially with its present minister, Rev. Norbert Racz.

February, 2014