

# Press Release

Contact: Craig Schomp  
Phone: (978) 897-5507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
12 P.M. EDT, April 3, 2012

**THE ACTON NETWORKERS, A MAJOR MASSACHUSETTS JOB SEEKERS  
SUPPORT GROUP CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

ACTON, MA, APRIL 13, 2012: A meeting with the group's original founders will take place on Friday April 13, 2012 at 10AM at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Acton. The founders will share thoughts and experiences from the group's early history and will be available for a photo opportunity.

The Acton Networkers was founded officially on March 23, 2002 as a combined Yahoo email distribution list by the leaders of five church groups, each group founded post 9/11 to help with the resulting bad job market of the time. The five founders are:

**Craig Schomp - St. Isidore's Catholic Parish Stow**

**John Nitzke - St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Acton**

**Mike Berg - Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Acton**

**Paul Gaboury - First Parish Unitarian Universalist Concord**

**John Nicholson - Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish Sudbury**

The main meeting site for the combined groups was selected to be St. Matthews in Acton hosted by Rev. Rick Black and Rev. Dr. Bruce Pherson because of its group meeting hall size. The original group of about 25 people met weekly to aid themselves and others with shared "needs & leads", job hunting skills, tips, challenges and market research. Since then 12,748 people have cycled through the email list as they had need for and then were helped with their job search. The current membership list totals 2,384 people. The group is run totally by volunteers, takes only donations for coffee at the meetings and has expanded to include groups at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish in Hopkinton and the Acton Congregational Church. The Acton Networkers as an organization is now listed as a major resource for job seekers in Massachusetts and is featured in the Riley Guide at:

<http://www.rileyguide.com/support.html>

an internet directory of job resources. The main web site at:

<http://www.ActonNetworkers.org>

maintains a resource book generally available for all job seekers at:

[http://www.actonnetworkers.org/resource\\_book.html](http://www.actonnetworkers.org/resource_book.html)

The group welcomes anyone from any profession and meeting times are listed on the web site. Attendance to at least one meeting is required for addition to the email list.

-End-