

**ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**October 29-31, 2004**  
**Boston, MA**

Present; Judy Pickett, Joan Lund, Bruce Clary, Kathy Silver, Dave Leonard, Jane Fogg, Jim King, Barb Brown, Pete Fontneau, Mary Miles, Betty Cummings

**ACTION ITEMS**

- UUA video or DVD for congregations. Joan will take this suggestion to the Board and Mary will take it to Terry for the Leadership Council.
- Dick Jacke will re-present the % of budget extension issue to the March meeting.
- Judy and Mary will contact Harlan Limpert to discuss DE representation on the Executive Committee
- Judy will prepare and send the Executive Committee a grid outlining the discussion and options re: regions
- Mary will ask Stefan Jonasson to attend the March meeting
- Judy will invite Larry Ladd to the March meeting
- Bruce will invite Mike Durall to be the March keynote speaker
- Judy will invite Dick Jacke to do the Saturday ingathering
- Bruce and Kathy will do the Sunday worship
- Barb and Judy will plan the March meeting music breaks
- Joan, Kathy, Julie and Mary will gather suggestions for Saturday night activities
- Judy will contact the NH/VT president Jane Dwinell about a successor to Mal on the APF Cmt.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**Report from Mary/Betty**

- The District Chair' Annual Reports are summarized (attached). Changes recommended:
  1. Send form out earlier, attach previous year's report, projections and year-end report
  2. Add a cover sheet of instructions
  3. Be clear about dates to be used for % of pledging congregations
  4. Use the projection figure turned in by the Chair in March, not any adjustment made later in the year
- Harlan Limpert (Dir. for District Services) is interested in challenging districts to increase APF. Mary will pursue, although the concept of district goals was dropped in 1994. Harlan was invited to speak at the March meeting but could not commit yet. (Mary will follow up with him.)
- Region IV recommended at its October meeting that the UUA produce a yearly video for congregations about the UUA, including the Association's public witness work. Region I also recommended a similar idea at their October meeting. Agreement that this would be a positive "right relations" step, but must be inspirational and educational and must be professionally done. A DVD or a sophisticated PowerPoint presentation might be a less costly alternative. Joan will take to the Board and Mary will take it to Terry for the Leadership Council.
- Mary introduced the idea of having Regional meetings every year, which led to a discussion of the functionality and necessity for our Regional structure. A task force (Barb, Jim, Judy) met to consider revising the Regions. After discussion, the consensus was that we no longer need geographical regions. Some ideas:
  1. Hold a fall meeting for all regions every year, one east of the Mississippi and one west
  2. The Executive Committee's fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the east meeting
  3. There will continue to be a whole-Committee meeting in March
  4. The regional structure will be eliminated. Three at-large Coordinators from the Districts would sit on the Executive Committee (method of choosing to be determined) with 2-year, rotating terms, as nowThe changes would depend on adequate funding. The entire Committee will have an opportunity to discuss and give input on these suggestions during the Regional breakouts in March.

## Regional Reports

- Region I, Jane Fogg – Jane reported on the Region I meeting held October 2. They discussed:
  1. A marketing package with a DVD, PowerPoint, etc. component
  2. Sample letters for ministers, treasurers/finance chairs and presidents
  3. Web-based district directory
  4. Right relations and the way we communicate needs to be discussed in more depth
  5. Including ministers in communications with congregations
  6. How we communicate the need of the individual to be a part of the whole movement
  7. When visiting, try to work our message into the theme of the day
- Region II, Barb Brown – Barb estimates Region II will contribute more dollars this year than last, but will be at a slightly lower percentage.
- Region III, Pete Fontneau – Giving is down and Pete expects is to continue downhill, partly due to impact of hurricane season.
- Region IV, Jim King – Reported on Region IV meeting, including the discussion on right relationship. Requested that the extension of % budget option be revisited at the March meeting. Requested that pledge forms go out early enough that District Chairs know which congregations they need to follow up with by September or early October. District chairs communicate well with Mary and may not feel the need to contact with him. There will be more income due to increase in suggested fair share.

## Redux of % of budget for large mid-size congregations

The Large Congregation Staff Team asked Mary to ask the APF Committee to reconsider this issue, believing that the extension would help create more positive relationships with these congregations and support their efforts for growth. Will be on our March agenda. Dick Jacke will be the presenter.

**March Meeting Planning** – Kay Montgomery, Larry Ladd, Terry Sweetser, Stefan Jonasson, and Ralph Mero will be invited to attend/present. Mike Durall will be invited to deliver the keynote. (Mary will follow up with Harlan Limpert.)

## APF Committee Appointments

Reviewed and approved as presented. Mary is still encouraging NH/VT to fill Mal Ingison's position and asked Judy to contact the DP, Jane Dwinell, to reinforce the need for a recommendation soon!  
Executive Committee replacements: Changes in Coordinators will be postponed until a clear decision is made re eliminating regions.

**Add a DE liaison?** – Consensus was that it would be good to have more DE involvement. Mary and Judy will explore the possibility of DE representation on the Committee with Harlan Limpert. A concern: liaisons will outnumber committee members on the Executive Committee.

## Liaison Reports

- **UUMA, Bruce Clary** – UUMA will gladly continue to cosponsor the Sermon Award with APF and LREDA. APF and UUMA will contribute \$375 each and LREDA will contribute \$250 for a total of \$1000. UUMA is reassessing their liaison structure to either form tighter bonds or not have liaisons at all. They are considering dropping their APF liaison. Bruce will follow up with UUMA on need to continue. Mary will also talk with Ken Sawyer, UUMA President, when she sees him in early Nov. at an installation.
- **UUA Board of Trustees, Joan Lund** – Joan is on the Living our Faith Working Group. She gave us a snapshot of various issues the Board is facing, including:
  - Growth in our RE programs is down
  - Congregational president's GA registration costs are being taken from the reserve fund. Must decide what to do when that is depleted.
  - Reviewing the Commission on Social Witness process
  - A request from Central Midwest District to do more in the area of growth

## Funding capital campaigns

- **LREDA, Kathy Silver** – LREDA is very happy to be included as a cosponsor of the Sermon Award. Thanked everyone who made it happen. LREDA received an anonymous donation to cover the cost this year. LREDA will build it into their budget next year. They are fully involved in the credentialing process for DREs. Religious Educators will be recognized at GA as they reach their three possible credentialing levels. Kathy sees this as a wonderful advancement for Religious Educators. An unresolved issue is seeing that salaries of long-time DREs are not adversely affected if they choose not to go through the rigorous credentialing process.

LREDA has adopted a revised code of ethics that now includes a statement that deals directly with financial support for the Association.

- **District President's Association, Dave Leonard** – The DPA is made up of 20 members, many elected for 2 years. They meet in late October or early November and again right before GA. They sponsored a Leadership Summit at GA 2004 and assisted with the Congregational Presidents' gathering. Next week's meeting will include conversations with Bill Sinkford and Kay Montgomery; a discussion of transformational regional bodies; an evaluation of co-employment of District Staff; and compensation of District Staff. They will also discuss GA workshop plans and will plan their next meeting.

**Stewardship Game, Barb Brown** – Barb described and demonstrated a stewardship game she has developed to use with the stewardship curriculum.

**Ralph Mero, Director for Church Staff Finances** – Ralph made a brief presentation about generosity as an intrinsic value in itself and the characteristics shared by religious groups that are growing (they are inclusive and welcoming; they have an identity that is different from other religions). He also talked about the perceived competition between APF and salaries.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

**Mission/Vision/Ministry** – Barb Brown and Judy led a process resulting in the following statement for the APF Committee:

#### **Mission -what is our work**

To encourage generous congregational support for the Vision, Mission and Ministry of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

#### **Vision - why we do our work**

An association of congregation fulfilling our covenant with one another through generous stewardship.

#### **Ministry -how we do our work**

The Ministry of the Annual Program Fund Committee is to help increase financial support for the UUA through the active, on-going efforts of the District APF Committees; to encourage all congregations to include their full financial support as a line item in their budgets; and to act as a liaison between the UUA and member congregations.

We come together to envision, empower, and model stewardship for Unitarian Universalist congregations to show their support for our religious movement through their contributions to the Annual Program Fund.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

#### **GA Planning**

- **Workshops** – Stewardship Sermon Award Worship Service. Selection committee will be made up of representatives from each sponsoring group. Jim King volunteered to be the APF rep. Judy will ask Gini Courter to remove the award from the Finance Committee report so it can be given more prominence as part of the other award presentations. The winner will also be invited to the President's Council lunch.

Other workshop ideas: UUA 101; Right Relations in terms of stewardship; congregations who've made dramatic APF increases and how they did it; Denominational Connections.

- **Committee gathering** – Lunch after the Sunday service at a restaurant.
- **APF exhibit** – Same as previous year – part of one for Stewardship and Development

### **Finalize March Agenda**

- Liaisons will be asked to have a pre-written, five-minute report
- Dick Jacke will be invited to do the Saturday ingathering
- There will be an in-house Sunday morning service, arranged by Bruce and Kathy
- Committee will be pre-assigned (on their nametags) to 5Ps discussion groups. Facilitators will be Joan, Dave, Bruce, Kathy, Betty
- Committee will be “on its own” for Saturday night dinner and activities. Joan, Kathy, Julie and Mary will gather suggestions

Submitted by Betty Cummings