

Excellence in Ministry Follow-Up: Overlaps and Alliances

Erik Walker Wikstrom

January 9, 2009

Coming out of the Excellence in Ministry Summit with eight high-priority projects it seems obvious to try to find natural convergences, areas of overlap, or alliances. Here's one picture:

There are two fundamental ("internal") questions that need to be addressed before any of the others, because the answers to these two could very well color and shape all of the efforts. The fundamental questions are:

- At an institutional level we need to address the question of *what model of church* we're looking towards. Everything else, it seems to me, grows out of this—the kind of training we do for both clergy and laity should, it seems to me, organically come from the kind vision of church we're striving toward.
- At a personal level, excellence in ministry grows out of an engagement with the question "*whose am I?*" (translated, of course, as necessary).

With these two questions answered there come the other ("external") questions:

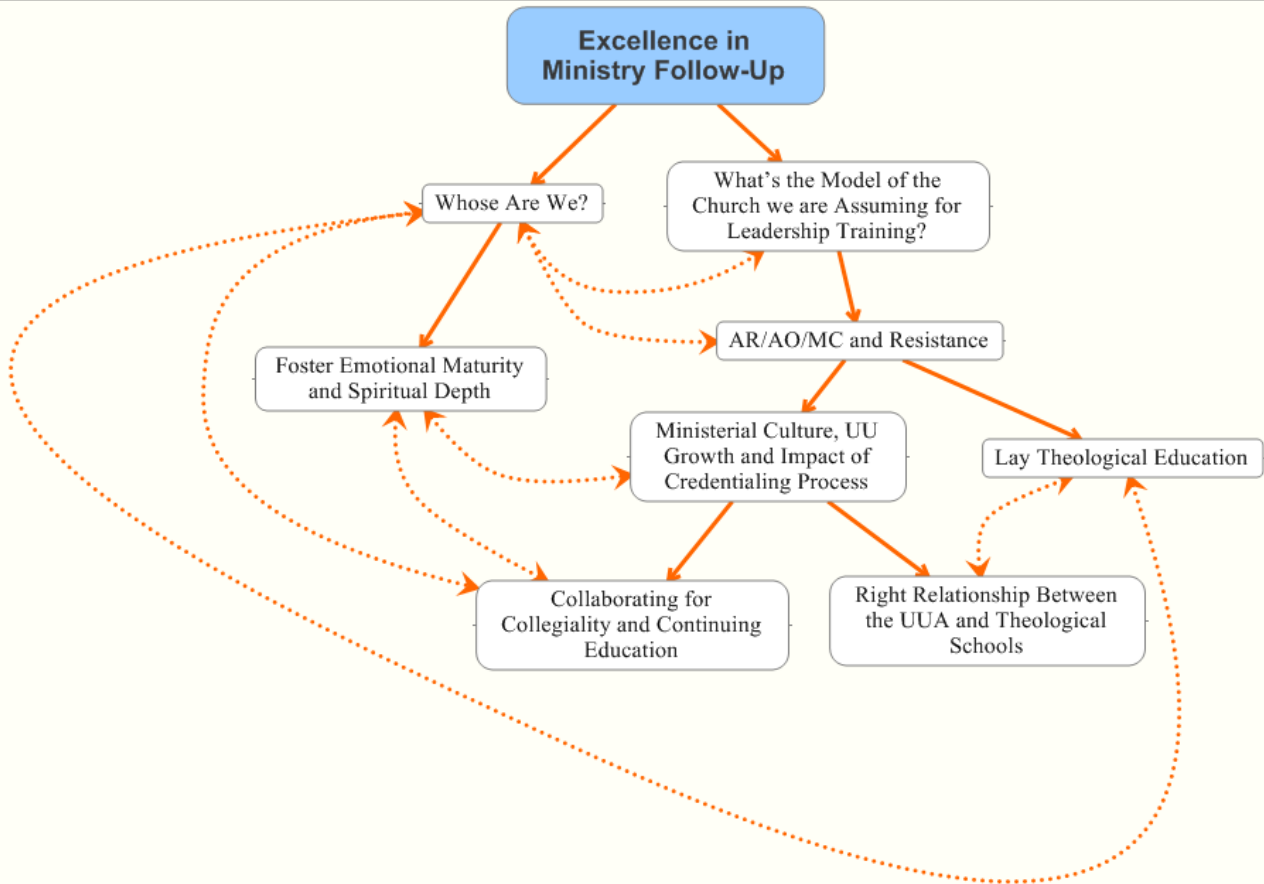
- Once we know the model of church we're looking to build in the world, then it makes sense to begin asking questions about how we train our ordained leaders—e.g., *Ministerial Culture*, *UU Growth*, and *the Impact of the Credentialing Process*—and our lay leaders—*Lay Theological Education*. It seems to me, based on our rhetoric at least, that our commitment to AR/AO/MC work will be foundational to our vision of church and, so, the specific *AR/AO/MC and Resistance* project(s) would be interwoven with these others. It's my sense, too, that while the UUMA leadership has already carved out the *Collaborating for Collegiality and Continuing Education* for itself, it has a place in this mix as well.
- Growing out of the exploration of the question *whose are we?* we would pick up the work of *Fostering Emotional Maturity and Spiritual Depth*. (This could just as easily be incorporated as a subset of the "culture and credentialing" project as well as be part of the lay theological education.)

One Way of Looking at This:

First we have to answer two fundamental (and “internal”) questions					
Whose are we?		What is our model of the church?			
Anne Bancroft Burton Carley Emily Gage Bill Graves Mark Harris Abhi Janamanchi Paul Johnson Sarah Lammert Jon Luopa Dan McKanan Barbara Merritt Mary Ellen Morgan Jason Shelton Marcia Stanard Vail Weller Erik Wikstrom		Kevin Drewery Mary Ellen Morgan Tamara Payne-Alex Marcia Stanard Vail Weller Ned Wight Erik Wikstrom			
After answering these, we can begin to address the more “external” responses					
Foster Emotional Maturity and Spiritual Depth Jory Agate Bill Graves Paul Johnson Beth Miller Caleb Raible-Clark Christine Robinson Wayne Walder John Weston Erik Wikstrom		AR/AO/MC is undoubtedly one of the bedrock elements of our model of the church and, so, is woven in and through everything else (AR/AO/MC and Resistance)			
		Anne Bancroft Susan Gore Erik Kesting Rebecca Parker Caleb Raible-Clark Kimi Riegel Susan Ritchie		Wendy Von Zirpolo Sharon Welch Kiera Wesley	
Ministerial Culture, UU Growth and Impact of Credentialing Process Jory Agate Wayne Arnason Nancy Bowen Kevin Drewery Emily Gage Doug Gallagher Beth Miller David Pettee Christine Robinson Erik Wikstrom		Lay Theological Education Gini Courter Deborah Holder Harlan Limpert John Luopa Mary Ellen Morgan Caleb Raible-Clark Christine Robinson Jackie Shanti Jason Shelton Ken Wagner Erik Wikstrom	Collaborating for Collegiality and Continuing Education Jory Agate Lee Barker Rob Eller-Isaacs Abhi Janamanchi Beth Miller Rebecca Parker Wayne Wadler Erik Wikstrom	Right Relationship Between the UUA and Theological Schools Wayne Arnason Lee Barker Gini Courter Robert Hardies Dan McKanan Barbara Merritt Rebecca Parker David Pettee Ned Wight	

Another Way of Looking at This:

Using a mindmap to describe multiple interrelationships, this is one possible understanding of the relationships of the eight follow-up projects. (Note that the solid lines represent something of a traditional hierarchical relationship while the dotted lines show a different kind of connectedness.)



Addendum: “Willing Workers”

	Whose Am I?	What Is Our Model of the Church?	AR/AO/MC and Resistance	Ministerial Culture, Growth and Credentialis	Lay Theological Education	Collaborating for Collegiality and Continuing Education	Right Relationship Between the UUA and Theological	Foster Emotional Maturity and Spiritual Depth
Panel on Theological Education								
Barbara Merritt	X						X	
Tamara Payne-Alex		X						
Robert Hardies							X	
Gini Courter					X		X	
Doug Gallagher				X				
MPL Staff								
Beth Miller				X		X		X
Jory Agate				X		X		X
David Pettee				X			X	
John Weston								X
Erik Wikstrom	X	X		X	X	X		X
Other UUA Staff								
Nancy Bowen				X				
Erik Kesting			X					
Harlan Limpert					X			
Deborah Holder					X			
Others (alphabetically)								
Wayne Arnason				X			X	
Anne Bancroft	X		X					
Lee Barker						X	X	
Burton Carley	X							
Kevin Drewery		X		X				
Rob Eller-Isaacs						X		
Emily Gage	X			X				X
Doug Gallagher				X				
Susan Gore			X					
Bill Graves	X							
Mark Harris	X							
Abhi Janamanchi	X					X		
Paul Johnson								X
Sarah Lammert	X							
Jon Luopa	X				X			
Dan McKanan	X						X	
Mary Ellen Morgan	X	X			X			
Rebecca Parker			X				X	
Caleb Raible-Clark			X		X			X
Kimi Riegel			X					
Susan Ritchie			X					
Christine Robinson				X	X			X
Jackie Shanti					X			
Jason Shelton	X				X			
Marcia Stanard	X	X						
Wendy Von Zirpolo			X					
Ken Wagner					X			
Wayne Walder						X		X
Sharon Welch			X					
Vail Weller	X	X						
Kiera Wesley			X					
Ned Wight		X					X	

