



COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

To provoke deep reflection and evoke timely, creative transformation of Unitarian Universalism, our congregations, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

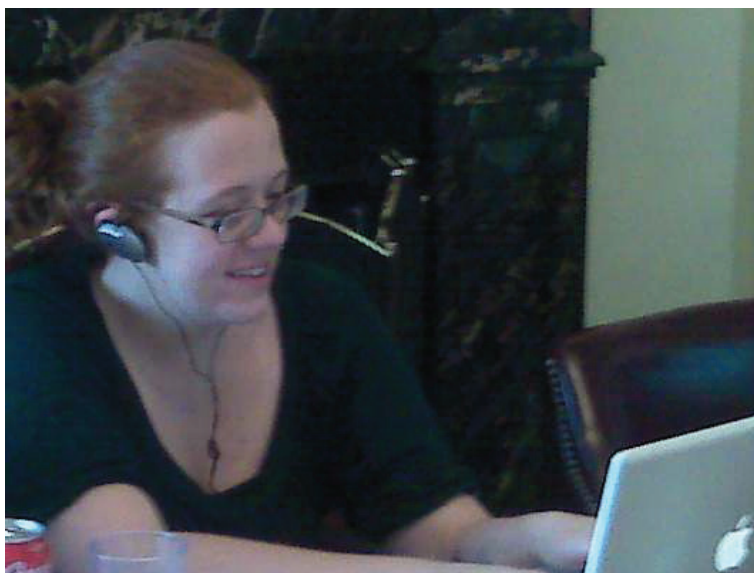
Update on our Current Study **Who's In Charge Here?**

The Complex Relationship between Ministry and Authority

Our Work This Year

We are two years into this study, and we will present our findings in 2013. For the past year, we have been conducting focus groups of Unitarian Universalists all over the country.

We have asked all of our groups the same questions, including questions about what ministry is, where the authority to do ministry comes from for ministers and lay people, and the impact of different understandings of authority on congregational life.



We have grouped ministers, board leaders, religious educators and other types of congregational leaders into separate focus groups. We have also interviewed groups of ministers who share a common identity, for example, female ministers, male ministers, ministers of color, and several others.

When we have finished with this phase, we will have conducted around 40 groups, including around 240 people.

Next Steps

We are wrapping up our focus group phase this summer. Over the next year, we will be conducting in-depth case studies of a few Unitarian Universalist congregations, to really dig into the dynamics affecting ministry and authority in a particular place. We will spend the following year analyzing our data and getting ready to release our report. Look for that report in 2013!



About the Commission on Appraisal

The Commission on Appraisal is charged by Section 5.8 (a) of the UUA bylaws to “review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review,” and to report to the General Assembly at least every four years. Commissioners are elected by General Assembly delegates to serve staggered six-year terms.

Find us at coa@uua.org or through www.uua.org/coa where minutes of our meetings can keep you informed of our progress.

The Members of the Commission are:

| Terms Expire 2011 | Terms Expire 2013 | Terms Expire 2015 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Barbara Child | Pete Fontneau, | Erica Baron, Project Manager |
| Michael Ohlrogge | Bev Harrison | Megan Dowdell, Incoming Chair |
| Jacqui C. Williams | Don Mohr | Nana' Kratochvil |

And welcoming the new members of the Commission:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| John Cullinan | Lynne Garner | Mitra Rahnema |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|