

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. is the Senior Minister of Vision, Worship and the Arts at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. Prior to joining the Middle Church staff in 2004, Jacqui was the project consultant for the Cultural Boundaries Project at the Alban Institute. Along with her work on negotiating cultural boundaries, Jacqui consulted with congregations and led workshops on conflict management, leadership development and spirituality. Jacqui is passionate about developing leadership in multicultural/multiracial churches. She says, "Of 300,000 Christian congregations in this country, only six percent are multiracial, that is with 20 percent of another race other than the majority. We have much work to do around this issue . . . and capacities to be built. We don't need communities of people pretending to be all the same, but rather communities in which the unique particularity of each person is recognized, accepted and affirmed. In the midst of that, it is important to risk showing our authentic selves and embracing the conflict that we might encounter, even while we commit to stay in relationship."

Rev. Dr. Lewis earned her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Seminary and her Ph.D. at Drew University in Psychology and Religion. Her doctoral thesis was narrative identity study of clergy who serve multiracial/multicultural congregations. Before joining the staff at Alban, Jacqui had an eight year career at Eastman Kodak Company, where she worked in personnel management and marketing. After seminary, Jacqui served two congregations in urban Trenton, New Jersey, including a new church development project, the Imani Community Church (PCUSA) and the Imani Community Center, for which she was the organizing pastor. This predominantly African American church built a multi-cultural membership and served the community's families and children with creative worship and economic development.

Dr. Lewis' keynote speech on Friday will be followed by a day-long workshop including small group conversation and in-depth exploration of what it means to lead a congregation into a multi-racial, multi-cultural future.

Saturday's Program

Building the World We Dream About

Dr. Mark A. Hicks is associate professor of educational transformation at George Mason University, Virginia. As a philosopher, teacher, artist and activist, he combines both his professional and spiritual work in service of creating opportunities for individuals and groups to surface and revisit the assumptions and values that don't serve them nor society well. He is a JUUST Change Consultant and a lay member of the South East Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy. Most recently, he was selected by the UUA to develop, "Building the World We Dream About" which is a congregation-based curriculum for exploring issues of race, ethnicity and equity in UU settings. He is a lay leader at All Souls, Unitarian in Washington, D.C.

A Bold New Thing! Creating Multiracial/Multicultural Congregations

Taquiena Boston is Director of Identity-Based Ministries for the Unitarian Universalist Association and a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. She also serves as the UUA President's Liaison to the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee. For 14 years she was a member of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, where she served as a lay leader and volunteer in ministerial relations, religious education, arts programs, and public relations. She is grateful to the late Reverend Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley who connected her with the UUA's anti-oppression/anti-racism/multiculturalism work.

The JUUST Change Consultancy – A New Resource for UU Leaders

Janice Marie Johnson is a religious educator, curriculum developer and trainer, and Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Community Church of New York in New York City. She believes that education is a spiritual practice. She is an active Unitarian Universalist leader working on the local, district and continental levels. Ms. Johnson is a JUUST Change Consultant and experienced antiracism, anti-oppression trainer. At General Assembly in 2006 President of the UUA Rev. William G. Sinkford presented the President's Award for Volunteer Service to Janice and her sister, Rev. Hope Johnson. Janice is an ardent believer in the power of the collaborative process and in interfaith dialogue. In all her world, Janice is most proud of her role as mom to artist and activist, Lehna Huie. Janice is inspired by her maxim: *Masakhane* - "Let us build together."

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones is a JUUST Change consultant and the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of San José, a congregation on its way to becoming an intentionally multiracial, multicultural, "multidimensional" Beloved Community. FUCSJ's Spanish-Speaking Ministries are helping to create "one church in many languages." Nancy is also the co-editor, with the late Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, of *Soul Work: Antiracist Theologies in Dialogue*.

Regional Growth and Diversity?

Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr. serves as the Minister of Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church in Camp Springs, Maryland. He is active in a growth plan to assist the church in expanding into a multiracial congregation. Under his leadership, Davies nears 40% diversity. He currently serves on two UU boards, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM), and The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). John is author of the book, "Conversations: The Hidden Truth That Keeps The World From Being At Peace," published in 2001, and also "Charge of the Chalice" his newest book, which tells the story of Davies' growth and diversity plan. He is also an adjunct professor at Potomac College in Washington, DC, teaching Comparative Religion, African American History, and Public Speaking.

Paula Cole Jones is a management consultant and lifelong member of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C. She is a former president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) and an independent antiracism consultant for the UUA. Paula was instrumental in the formation of the JUUST Change Consultancy and is the lead consultant for JUUST Change. She is an experienced ARAO leader and works with groups on the congregational, district, and national level.