

Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: now is the time!

UUA 2008 National Conference

SAN JOSE CA

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008



In 1997 the General Assembly made a commitment to move toward becoming an antiracist, anti-oppressive, multicultural Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Again in 2006, members of the UUA passed a General Assembly Responsive Resolution that seeks to address behaviors towards people of color in our own congregations and communities, revealing that it is essential for UUs to continue with this important work as we seek to build just and inclusive communities. This work is ongoing and underlines a commitment that is rooted to Unitarian Universalist identity, theology, and values.

Some of our member congregations have done significant work on issues of racism, classism, and multiculturalism using resources provided by the UUA and others. **Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: now is the time!** Is an exceptional opportunity to reinvigorate your commitment, meet other UUs involved in this work, to listen, learn and take back and share with your congregation.

WELCOME



FRIDAY, February 22, 2008

- 8:15 AM coffee and social time
- 9:00 AM opening worship and welcome, with Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris and Kim Rankin
- 9:45 AM keynote with Rev. Lewis, PhD
- 10:45 AM break
- 11:00 AM keynote continues
- 12:30 PM lunch together
- 1:30 PM tribute to Rev Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley by Rev Dr Tracey Robinson-Harris
- 2:00 PM afternoon program with Rev. Lewis
- 3:30 PM break
- 4:00 PM afternoon program continues
- 5:30 PM break
- 6:00 PM dinner together
- 7:15 PM Friday program wrap-up
- 8:30 PM 15-minute meditation and closing with Sofia Betancourt

Saturday, February 23, 2008

- 8:15 AM coffee and social time
- 8:45 AM opening meditation and welcome with Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
- 9:00 AM morning program with Dr. Butler
- 10:30 AM break
- 10:45 AM morning program continues
- 12:45 PM lunch together
- 1:45 PM "Building the World We Dream About" update by Taquiena Boston, UUA
- 2:15 PM workshops begin
- 3:30 PM break
- 3:45 PM continue with your workshop
- 5:00 PM UUA President, Rev William Sinkford,
- 5:30 PM Saturday program wrap-up
- 5:45 PM Saturday program ends with singing meditation with Kim Rankin

Have a great evening!

SUNDAY, February 24, 2008

- 8:45 AM meet in lobby for transportation to service
- 9:30 AM attend Spanish-English bilingual service at First Unitarian Church of San José
- 11:00 AM return to Doubletree Hotel for brunch and closing
- 1:00 PM conference ends

DYNAMIC, INTERACTIVE, EXPRESSIVE, EDUCATIONAL, INNOVATIVE, MEANINGFUL

Conference Location

Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose, CA
Phone: 408-453-4000

UUA Conference Contact

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Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future Future: now is the time!



The Reverend Jacqueline Lewis, PhD

The UUA is delighted to welcome back Reverend Lewis for our Friday **keynote program**. Lewis 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, where her work focused on **negotiating cultural boundaries**, conflict management, leadership development and spirituality. Jacqui is **passionate about developing leadership** in multicultural/multiracial churches. She says, "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." Reverend 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. 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 multicultural 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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

- ◆ In a world of blue and red states, of the radical right and far left, of fundamentalism and apathy; in a world where "the other" is distrusted and feared
- ◆ In a world in need of the hope that beloved community can be made more real by human intention and conscious faithfulness
- ◆ In this world where Unitarian Universalists are called to affirm and promote respect, justice, interdependence and to honor many sources of wisdom and truth

- ◆ Now is the time for Unitarian Universalists to learn, to lead, to grow

*Dr. Shakti Butler** of World Trust Educational Services, Inc.

Mirrors of Privilege: Mirrors of Change



**A Heart-to-Heart Conversations™ program
based on the film, *Mirrors of Privilege:
Making Whiteness Visible***

Saturday, February 23rd

Spend time unwrapping, healing, learning and engaging in dialogue that promotes transformation related to unconscious aspects of bias, privilege and racism. We will work with ***Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible***, a film that features the experiences of white women and men who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States. They model and reveal what is often required to expose and move beyond the denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear and shame that help keep systemic racism in place without people of color being forced into the limited role of "teacher". We will spend time building community together. We will gather and use the power and truth found within our own stories to think about racism at 3 distinct levels – personal/interpersonal, community/cultural and institutional/systemic. The idea is to illumine possibilities for creating a new action story; a story of truth, justice and empowerment for participating in the creation of a world that we want to live in and leave for those who will follow.

* **Shakti Butler** is a multiracial African-American woman - (African, Arawak Indian, and Russian-Jewish). Her work as a creative and visionary bridge builder has challenged and inspired learning for over twenty-one years. Dr. Butler is also the producer and director of the groundbreaking documentaries, [*The Way Home*](#), [*Light in the Shadows*](#) and *Mirrors of Privilege: [*Making Whiteness Visible*](#)*, which is World Trust's latest release.

In 1994, as Executive Director of World Trust Educational Services, Inc., Dr. Butler designed and launched *Heart to Heart Conversations*™, a national program of public dialogue designed to help people learn together and share deep feelings about race and culture. Her videos serve as catalysts for dialogue and set the context for constructive conversations on oppression through the lens of race. Shakti's work moves conversations beyond black and white and speaks to the interconnectedness of racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia. A warm and compassionate person, she uses her ability to listen deeply while asking critical questions that support self-directed learning in others.

Dr. Butler received her doctorate from the California Institute of Integral Studies in the School of Transformative Learning and Change. She holds an MA in Guidance and Counseling from Bank Street College of New York and graduated Magna Cum Laude from City College of New York. She is also a contributing author to *The New Entrepreneurs*, an anthology on new paradigm business practices and learning.

Saturday from 2:15PM to about 4:45PM

Workshop Descriptions

A. LOCATION: **Donner**

Join **Dr. Shakti Butler** in continuing the dialogue on multiracial, multicultural competencies. What steps do we take and what challenges do we face as we talk about race and injustice in our own communities and congregations? By filling you in on her most recent projects, Dr. Butler will guide you into expanding compassion, improving communication skills and setting the context for constructive, compassionate conversations on oppression.

B. LOCATION: **Siskiyou**

What next after *Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future* and returning to your congregation? Take this opportunity to meet with experienced JUUST Change Consultants to discuss your experiences at the conference in a small group setting. You'll share with others and take away ideas for turning what you've learned into practical steps at the local level, including what the UUA offers for resources in this work.

C. LOCATION: **San Juan**

In our efforts to diversify UU ministry, we have learned that it takes more than settling racially and culturally diverse candidates to achieve success in cross-cultural ministries and growth. Come explore the Diversity of Ministry Initiative and what the UUA and others have learned about preparing congregations for sustainable multiracial/multicultural ministries. Presented by **Taquienna Boston**, Director, Identity-Based Ministries at the UUA; **Sofia Betancourt**, Director of Office of Racial & Ethnic Concerns at the UUA, and **Paula Cole Jones**, Lead JUUST Change Consultant for the UUA.

Get to know San Jose—it's museums, light rail system, parks, winery, music, the Mexican Heritage Plaza, and numerous other attractions! Catch "Swan Lake" performed by the premier Ballet San Jose, or hear "Rigoletto" by Opera San Jose. There are numerous stage companies performing in the area. Santa Clara County has wonderful hiking and beach combing is just a short drive. And don't forget to try one of San Jose's brew pubs or visit the tasting room at the J. Lohr Winery right in town. There's plenty to do and delicious food at some of the Bay Area's best dining spots.

Thank you

Whew, it takes a lot of committed, enthusiastic people to put on *Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future*—now is the time! Many thanks to:

- ◆ Rev. William Sinkford, President, UUA
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris, Director of Congregational Services, UUA
- ◆ Rev. Jaqueline Lewis, PhD, Senior Minister of Middle Collegiate Church
- ◆ Dr. Shakti Butler, Executive Director of World Trust Educational Services, Inc.
- ◆ Kanchan Haynes, Program Director of World Trust Educational Services, Inc.
- ◆ Barbara Johnson, B Johnson Films
- ◆ Workshop facilitators Sofia Betancourt, Taquiena Boston, Phyllis Daniel, Paula Cole Jones, and Mitra Rahnama
- ◆ Kim Rankin, Director of Music Ministry at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland
- ◆ Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church of San José
- ◆ Volunteers: Kathleen Bardin, Roberto Padilla, Marla Scharf, and Jan Theiss Guffey
- ◆ Gurdeep Johal, Event Manager at the Doubletree Hotel San José
- ◆ The management and staff of the Doubletree San José

And special thanks to all conference attendees for your leadership to nurture multiracial, multicultural Unitarian Universalist congregations

The National Conference, “Now Is The Time”, is a program of Congregational Services at the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108. Like the host of other services for congregations, this conference is possible, in part, because of congregations’ generous support of the Annual Program Fund of the UUA. Inquiries about this conference and other services offered by Congregational Services and the UUA should be directed to Diane Martin, Congregational Services Administrator, 617-948-6461 or dmartin@uua.org. Or visit our website at www.uua.org