

February 12, 2008

Hello CUUYAN,

We realize this has been an unusual year, and many of you have been left wondering what we have done so far to explore a new direction for the Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (CUUYAN). Because the Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) Office has been going through such intense changes simultaneously, we have been waiting to hear what is happening with the new office structure before we made any major decisions regarding this direction.

Tracey Robinson-Harris, Director of Congregational Services, who is serving as the Acting Director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, writes:

Over the course of the last several months we have been getting feedback from many people and groups within our Association. Based on what we've heard, we know that the new structure must help open the doors of Unitarian Universalism to fully welcome and include youth and young adults, and that it must support building multigenerational faith communities that are spiritually alive, radically inclusive, and justice-centered.

We've also heard:

- *A desire for strong emphasis on and more opportunities for leadership development.*
- *A wish for more opportunities such as the Summer of Service and Spirituality where we bring justice, service and spiritual deepening together.*
- *A hope that there will be opportunities for partnerships with the UU Service Committee and other organizations and continued opportunities such as Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT)*
- *Urgency that the new structure have greater capacity to use technology for the sharing of information and resources as well as for networking and connection.*
- *That opportunities for time limited and project focused internships with small stipends will strengthen the ministries of the office and help develop leadership within the young adult community.*
- *The current assessment of the UUA's ministries to and with youth and young adults of color is very important input for the structure and ministries of the new office*
- *Our commitments to anti racist, anti oppressive, multicultural transformation must continue to guide the ministries of the office and that ARAOMC trainings for young adults continue to be available.*
- *That the new structure take account of young adult ministries being done at the district level, support them and help develop them further; and that District Staff about have a clear relationship to the new structure*
- *That campus ministry continues to be a significant ministry for the office and that there be adequate structure provided to support it.*

The feedback process continues. A structure, and a time line for its implementation, has not yet been finalized.

With the new office structure, there will be more support for some things than the office has provided before. There will definitely be more support for networking opportunities, leadership development, and projects, including the possibility for paid internships with the office. There are many benefits of the office overseeing projects. These include greater support, more impact, faster payback, and more definite carry-through.

Unfortunately, with the new structure, there will also be less support for some things. These particular changes will most likely have a profound impact on CUUYAN.

The office will no longer be providing our financial management. This includes balancing our checkbook, managing our accounts, or writing checks for us.

The office will also cease to assist or support CUUYAN in conference planning. They will still be supporting events such as trainings, but will not be supporting the planning of Opus and/or ConCentric. GA Young Adult Caucus (or a similar event) will be hosted by the office. Volunteer leaders will still be chosen to assist in the planning, but will be chosen and supervised by the office, since a structure does not currently exist for CUUYAN to realistically supervise volunteer conference planners.

Perhaps the largest change is that the office will no longer be providing funding to CUUYAN. The YACM Office annually gave money to CUUYAN for its conferences and programming: \$10,000 for ConCentric, \$18,000 to the Steering Committee for CUUYAN programming, and \$5,000 for GA Young Adult Caucus.

This will no longer be the case. Starting July 1, 2008, CUUYAN will not be funded by the Youth and Young Adult office.

Tracey Robinson-Harris writes again:

*A year and a half ago, the staff of the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Office sent a letter to the leadership of C*UUYAN raising significant questions/issues about the relationship between the office and the organization, and the needs of UU young adults. While these matters were still on the table and unresolved, the office began the process of restructuring, resulting in the decision to create a new office for youth and young adult ministries (to be implemented in the 2008-2009 fiscal year). This past summer C*UUYAN decided to undertake a process of revisoning. Given these changes and the unresolved issues raised in the letter, I informed the C*UUYAN Steering Committee (in January 2008) that, after this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2008) the organization would no longer receive funding from the UUA's operating budget. A review of C*UUYAN's financial situation has been completed and reports (as of Nov. 30, 2007) have been shared with the Steering Committee. It is clear that the organization has sufficient financial resources for the short term (approximately \$40,000). Once a Director for the new office has been hired and C*UUYAN is further along in its discernment, conversations about a new relationship can take place if appropriate.*

As for CUUYAN's future, we have identified several choices. We want to solicit as much input from the community as possible as we move forward into exploring these choices.

We will be holding a meeting for the larger Young Adult community directly before General Assembly, in the same location as General Assembly. We chose this time and place because it is the easiest way for us to get people who will already be traveling to GA, and the space will be low-cost. We believe

this is our best choice considering the circumstances. Tracey Robinson-Harris has agreed to help us get a space at the conference center in which to hold this event. We will be seeking input from anyone who is able to attend, and also directing our entire remaining budget from the office for this year toward holding this event and getting people there. This pre-GA meeting will serve as a starting point for the visioning of a CUUYAN that is financially independent from the Young Adult office.

We welcome questions about this change, and suggestions for the coming year.

In faith,

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left, the signature 'Mary Fowles' is written vertically. To its right, there is a signature that appears to be 'Tracey Robinson-Harris' written vertically. Below 'Mary Fowles' is another signature that is partially obscured and difficult to read. A horizontal line is drawn across the top of the signatures.

CUUYAN Steering Committee