



THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT

Prepared for the Our Congregations Working Group, April 2004

THE DPA SPONSORED WORKSHOP AT GA 2004

Title: "The President of WHAT???"

Presenters: Harlan Limpert, UUA Director of Lay Leadership Development and Lynda Bluestein, President of the District Presidents Association

Progress: *Harlan and Lynda B have had several conversations about how to make this a very useful (relentlessly useful) workshop for congregation presidents. Some ideas we are kicking around include preparing a binder prepared for each CP in attendance that has some general information on governance, a roadmap of how to get information a CP might need and how to get to resources on line and in people form. We want to include a postage paid envelope to mail this binder home so CPs don't have to carry it around with them all of GA.*

THE SUMMIT FOR GA 2004

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach (Renaissance II & III)

No-host bar from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Dinner & Program 6:30 – 9:00 PM

CONGREGATION PRESIDENTS AT GA

District Presidents have been talking up GA in Long Beach to CPs in their districts. The key communications we have (as DPs) sent out include the following:

1. An article Lynda wrote for district newsletters or to be sent snail or e-mail to each CP entitled "Roll out the Red Carpet for Congregation Presidents"
2. An e-mail sent out via the DPA-L written by Eric Kluz (Ballou Channing) entitled "Dare We Be Dangerous?" was also shared district by district with CPs.
3. An E-mail prepared to be sent to each CP about the process for CPs to get reimbursed for their GA registration by going to the uua.org website.
4. An E-mail prepared to be sent to each CP on the announcement of the Ware Lecturer

PARTICIPATION IN INTERVIEW FOR DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES

On behalf of the DPA I again thank Bill Sinkford for including me as a participant in the interviews for the Director of District Services position. This does not go without saying – it was very much appreciated. I have hired many people in my business career and never once considered inviting "interested parties" to the interview process. Bill did. We are all very happy with the outcome of the interviews and look forward to working with Harlan Limpert as we very much appreciated our year plus with Peter.

LEGACY FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF FIELD STAFF

The financial relationship between the UUA and its twenty districts is a thing of rare ambiguity and complexity. At last year's meeting of the District President's Association (DPA) in Boston the DPA and the UUA agreed to undertake a review of our financial relationships. There is unequal funding of RE Program Consultant (PC) positions and an inequity in the funding of District Executives (DE) and PCs. The legacy agreements that determine what constitutes "other costs" are not transparent, equal or comprehensible and there is district to district inequity. Peter Morales has begun work on teasing out the issues and Peter and Lynda and Harlan will meet (Harlan by phone) in April at the time of the UUA Board Meeting to lay out a plan for involving others (a couple of district presidents and a couple of district staff). Peter thinks that any rational solution will need to be integrated into district budgets and the UUA budget, so lead time will be a key issue. Any adjustments could take effect no sooner than July, 2005 and may well take until 2006. Changes may even have to be phased in over several years. Our immediate task, however, is to recommend an arrangement that is equitable, transparent and flexible. The final product would have to go to the DPA and will most likely need to go before the UUA board. Please review it for any omissions.

OTHER REMARKS

The transition planning that Peter and Harlan have apparently been working on is working very well for the DPs. Thanks to them both for making this happen. I am working on defining and then putting in writing the purpose of the two DPA meetings each year. Harlan is assisting me in updating our DPA pages on the uua.org website. They are currently very out of date but much of the content has value if it is revised and refreshed. I hope to have most of the pages re-written and up on the website in the next month or so. DPs are very supportive of one another and we do a good job of welcoming new DPs to our group. We expect about a third new DPs when we meet in Long Beach.

Submitted by Lynda Bluestein
President of the District President's Association
03/31/04