

**Report of the
Panel on Theological Education
To the Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Association
June 21, 2011**

GRANTS: The Panel voted to recommend to the Board that the UUA allocate **\$534,500** for grants in **FY 2012**. From a base of \$504,500, this figure includes \$5,000 not being spent for Panel Administration expenses and \$25,000 not being allocated for the Internship Clearinghouse.

\$190,000	Starr King School for the Ministry
\$190,000	Meadville Lombard
\$25,000	Harvard Divinity School
\$25,000	Andover Newton Theological School
\$15,000	Renaissance Modules
\$22,500	Living into Covenant: Mt./Desert/Metro NY/JPD + evaluation
\$18,300	Military chaplain gathering
\$26,700	UU scholars related expenses
\$2,000	Sankofa Project
\$10,000	Recruitment
<u>\$10,000</u>	UUMA: Facilitating Cultural Change
\$534,500	

The amounts for the four theological schools remain unchanged from FY 2011, as does the line for Renaissance Modules.

For FY 12 the Living Into Covenant projects have expanded. Mountain Desert pioneered the idea of developing covenants between district congregations and clergy and ministerial aspirants and candidates with great, and ongoing, success. More recently Metro New York, JPD and PSD have begun similar programs. (PSD doesn't appear in the grant recommendations as they are entering the third year of a three year grant. They expect to come forward with a new request next year.) As more of our students receive their

education at non-UU seminaries (currently over 60%) these covenanting projects fill a vital function. Additionally, Meadville Lombard's Touch Point program, while rooting students in UU culture, serves students at a distance. PSD's program also includes these students. As the MDD project has the longest track record, funds are built in for evaluation to life up best practices as other districts take up in-care projects.

For many years UUs had no presence in the military chaplaincy. This new grant request from staff will fund the first ever gathering of UU military chaplains. This retreat will provide opportunities for chaplains, chaplains in training and UU Committee on Military Chaplaincy an opportunity to explore the unique challenges they face and give UU chaplains an opportunity to bond.

The grant recommendations for UU scholars is for two scholars at the dissertation level and nominal support for a UU scholars gathering at the annual American Academy of Religion meeting.

The Sankofa Project takes its name from an African word symbolized by a bird moving forward, looking back, with an egg in its mouth. (The Acan tribal language word means "It is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind.") This project, now headed by Mark Morrison-Reed, is aimed at archiving materials documenting the experiences of people of color in Universalism, Unitarianism, and Unitarian Universalism, and to make them available for research, worship resources and religious education.

Recruitment: "To aggressively recruit UU religious professional Leaders" is the number one priority of the UUA's Strategic Plan for Ministry. Two planning meetings are scheduled for Fall 2011 out of which a plan is expected to develop. The first will be a day long meeting with leaders of UU professional organizations and the second a strategic planning retreat with the Diversity of Ministry Team.

The grant recommendation for the UUMA is to continue the "Whose Are We?" project begun last year. Outcomes will include:

- UU clergy will become more comfortable and articulate about the theological and spiritual aspects of Unitarian Universalism, and share this with their congregations through their preaching and teaching.

- UUMA chapters will provide small groups for spiritual discernment, practice and support. This will develop intimacy among colleagues and a forum for sharing the journey of ministry at a deep level.
- UU congregations will benefit from a clearer theological and spiritual grounding for the work of building the beloved community and creating justice in the larger world. This will in turn lead to growth in depth and numbers, as visitors can find a clearer and more compelling articulation of what our religious movement has to offer. We will be able not only to talk about who we are as Unitarian Universalists, but what larger purpose(s) we serve.
- This work naturally ties in with UU commitments to countering oppression and building multicultural competencies.
- UU clergy will feel more confident and competent to develop creative ways for congregations to experience spiritual retreats, spiritual discernment groups, UU theological identity classes, spiritual practice groups, etc.