



Report to the UUA Board of Trustees October 2011

I am pleased to report that at its meeting last month the UUWF Board formally endorsed the UUA's "[Gathered Here](#)" initiative, and we are looking forward to ways of both promoting and participating in this process. We, too, are eager to learn how we are gathered as a liberal religious faith movement. Our special concern, obviously, is the status of women and how they gather in UU congregations, however those congregations are defined.

The UUWF is working along parallel lines as we continue to strengthen our connections with groups of women in local congregations and identify ways to support them. Our "How UU Women Gather in 21st Century Congregations" workshop at last June's General Assembly was warmly and enthusiastically received, with over 120 women attending.

What we learned from those women was yet another confirmation of our belief that recent years have seen a resurgence of interest in gathering together among UU women. And they are gathering in many different ways. Some organize along traditional lines, and focus on tasks like providing hospitality or refreshments for congregational gatherings. Other women's groups organize lectures and/or adult religious education courses, or focus on social justice issues. Not a few women's groups are using the new technologies to communicate through their own websites and various social networking media.

Our Board also devoted time at our meeting to next year's GA, beginning to look at ways to make our programming meaningful to both the justice focus and to our mission. Here again are parallels, given the start of our [mission statement](#) ("advancing justice for women and girls"). Some initial thoughts involve building some GA programming around relevant projects we have funded through our Equity and Justice Grants Program and presentation of our [Ministry to Women Award](#) – which honors those who minister to women in an outstanding manner – to a person or organization that focuses on immigration justice.

The board is also looking forward to 2013, when we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UUWF's founding. We will be inviting past UUWF presidents to participate in planning the celebration of this milestone – to which you will all be invited. We anticipate a prophetic event: one that will ground us in the accomplishments of our first half-century as we look toward the future, helping shape our hopes and aspirations for the next fifty years.

Faithfully,

Rev. Marti Keller, President