

Office of Accessibility Concerns

Assistive Listening System (ALS): The Office of Accessibility Concerns, with the assistance of consultants, is creating an illustrated guide to using the ASL demonstration kit. The guide includes instructions for setting up a team, handling the individual pieces of equipment, and newsletter announcement. A sample sermon and story for all ages is being developed as well. The demand for the ALS demonstration kit surpasses the capacity of the Office of Accessibility Concerns to make it available to congregations. A district request to use the kit for an event had to be declined because of the kit's distribution schedule had already been filled by congregations.

UU's with Disabilities Constituent Support: The Office of Accessibility Concerns is working with an emerging affinity/constituent group led by people with disabilities with the backing and inclusion of their families, friends, and allies. The affinity group is seeking funding for a weekend organizing event in Spring 2008. The group was also invited to participate in the "UU Inclusions Group" that was initiated during the 2007 General Assembly.

Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns

Beyond Categorical Thinking: This fall begins the field test of the revised Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop for congregations in search. New handouts have been created. A training of trainers will take place in Spring 2008 with intentional recruitment of facilitators who identify as people of color and/or Latina/o/Hispanic and people with disabilities.

Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns

The Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns was delighted to add Laura Spencer to the staff, and her assessment work is key to improving our understanding of how to do ministry with youth and young adults of color and Latina/o Hispanic identified youth. Programmatic priorities for the R&EC Office are described below:

Assessment of Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color: Laura Spencer, Program Associate for Racial and Ethnic Concerns, has begun foundational work for her assessment of ministry to youth and young adults of color. Naming her work ***The Mosaic Project***, Laura will recruit a task force of key stakeholders to help guide this work. The assessment will employ a modified Appreciative Inquiry approach to discover best practices and ideas for meeting identified needs in the area of ministry to youth and young adults of color.

Diversity of Ministry: A high priority this year is working with the Diversity of Ministry Team and furthering the initiative to support ministers of color and Latina/o and Hispanic ministers. This includes working with congregations and ministers, convening the Diversity of Ministry Team, and hiring a staff member to serve as the Program Coordinator for Multicultural Congregations.

Multiracial Families and Families of Color Camps: Efforts to institutionalize Multiracial Families and Families of Color Camps will move forward with pilots in three districts this year. The Camps are being offered as a track during district gatherings. A successful pilot occurred in the Thomas Jefferson District in spring 2007.

Office of the Identity-Based Ministries Director

Taquiena Boston took a five-week sabbatical during the summer that included drafting a reflection guide for congregations seeking to diversify their membership racially and culturally. The reflection guide is based on her sabbatical at Middle Collegiate Church in October 2006, her experience at All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, and her reading and research on multiracial congregations. She has given herself the goal of completing the reflection guide by December 2007.

Sofia Betancourt Travel Schedule

October

16 – 18	Pittsburgh, PA Washington, DC Boston, MA	To speak on DOMT initiative IdBM staff retreat DRUUMM YaYA meeting
30	Essex, MA	UUMA Exec meeting

November

8-11	Oakland, CA Denver, CO Lyons, MI	Association Sunday and DOMT initiative consultation DRUUMM Fall Conference Co-facilitating Disabilities Allies workshop
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December

Boston, MA Portland, OR	DOMT meeting Ordination of Joseph Santos-Lyons
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January 2008

Berkeley, CA	To teach at Starr King School for the Ministry
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T. Boston Travel Schedule

October

2-3	Boston, MA	UUA Meetings
19	Boston, MA	Commission on Appraisal training for anti-oppression/anti-racism/multiculturalism
30	Essex, MA	UUMA Executive Committee meeting

November

28 – 30	Boston, MA	JTWTC Meeting
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December

1	Boston, MA	JTWTC Meeting
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D. Greenstein Travel Schedule

October

1 – 3	Portland, OR	working with assistive suicide and Disability constituency
11 – 14	Surprise, AZ	Association Sunday
16 – 18	Washington, DC	Id-BM staff retreat

November

2-4	London, ON Canada	Congregational work on issues of disability and ministry
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K. Kron Travel Schedule

October

13-15	Burlington, VT	Association Sunday
16-18	Washington DC	IDBM Staff retreat
20-22	Ashland, OR	Beyond Categorical Thinking
25-27	Boston, MA	Interweave Board meeting
28-31	Federal Way, WA	UUMA-PNWD retreat

November

Nov 2-3	Ferry Beach, ME	District Welcoming Cong. Conf.
Nov 4	Augusta, ME	Preaching
Nov 9-10	Charlottesville, VA	Regional Workshop/Keynote
Nov 11	Alexandria, VA	Beyond Categorical Thinking

December

1-2	Walnut Creek, CA	Beyond Categorical Thinking
3	New York City, NY (Community)	Workshop
4	Garden City, NY	Workshop
5-6	Boston, MA	Meetings
7-9	Germantown, MD	Beyond Categorical Thinking
15-17	Fridley, MN	Beyond Categorical Thinking

L. Spencer Travel ScheduleOctober

12-15	San Antonio, TX	LREDA fall
15 – 18	Washington, DC	Id-BM staff retreat
25-26	Boston, MA	Assessment Task force
26-29	Boston, MA	DRUUMM YaYA Steering

November

8–11	Denver, CO	DRUUMM Fall Conference
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