

Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee
Conference Call Meeting Notes
January 9, 2009

Present Members: Tracy Ahlquist, *Staff Support*; José Ballester, *Board Liaison*; Taquiena Boston, *President's Representative*; Catie Chi Olson; Devorah Greenstein, *Staff Liaison*; Bob Gross; Janice Marie Johnson, *Co-chair*; Michael Sallwasser, *Co-chair*; Arthur Tackman; Wendy von Zirpolo

Not Present: Kelly Flood; Julio Noboa

Start Time: 12:00 PM Eastern Time

End Time: 1:30 PM Eastern Time

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Actions
Opening Words - Janice	Janice shared a reading she'd adapted from a piece by Rev. Betsy Spaulding	
Reading from Our Covenant – Catie and José	<p>Catie and José read the two following passages from our covenant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ recognize and affirm that we learn, process, and articulate in unique communication styles, considering how our communication style affects others (Catie) ▪ promote dialogue by listening to understand with an open heart and mind (José) 	
Check-in - Janice	Committee members checked in.	
Status Reports – Michael * Executive Summary for UUA Board * Request sent to Moderator vis-à-vis plenary * Appointment of new JTWTC member by CoC * Research Project Committee	<p>Michael and Carolyn sent the Executive Summary to the Board.</p> <p>Michael contacted Gini with the committee's GA request, and was told that it's too early to know whether they'll have space in the Plenary.</p> <p>Deadline for applications to CoC has passed (it was January 5th). Chair of CoC said they already had a good pool of people to pull from, even if no new applications were submitted. Michael communicated the committee's ideas about the new member.</p> <p>More from Research Project Committee in February.</p>	
New Member Orientation / Oral	Catie and Kelly haven't met yet. More later.	

History – Catie (and Kelly)		
Review and Distillation of Meeting with NomCom – Bob	<p>Bob asks what would be useful for our work hereafter—the discussion ranged a great deal, even though the questions were posed in a useful way. Catie asks if we can go through the questions that were posed and try to determine what their answers were. Bob thinks the information they volunteered may be more helpful. Michael understood that the purpose of the conversation was to inform our next steps (putting together the survey). Perhaps we can go back to the notes after the first draft of survey questions is created. Arthur felt that the answers given in the meeting were somewhat befuddling; what do we want to know from them? Bob’s understanding is that we’re describing the current practices through an AO/AR/MC lens, rather than judging. Arthur asks if there are any statistics available (from the past 5 years, for example) about the nominees/applicants and their backgrounds. Catie asks if committees have ever vetoed appointments; Wendy understands that the power to appoint people lies with NomCom & CoC, but there’s a dialogue there. Wendy asks what recourse there is for people who haven’t been appointed—there might be racism/homophobia/abelism involved. Janice says that some appointments may be made for reasons of tokenism. Michael asks if we need to discuss this in February, or March. Catie wants us to get a list of who’s applied & who’s been accepted/appointed (without names, but looking at identities)—records since 1997?</p>	<p>Michael and Janice will write to the chairs of the CoC and NomCom to see if they keep any sort of records of demographics of applicants.</p>
Report on “Summit on Excellence in Ministry” – Wendy	<p>Wendy attended as president of Allies for Racial Equity; she sent a summary to Michael and Janice, and read it to the committee. Used open space technology; Wendy led an AR/AO/MC conversation, where participants were all people of color or allies (even though many others had signed up). When all conversations were up on the walls at the end, everyone in the room indicated that AR/AO/MC was one of their highest priorities. Wendy asked about the disconnect between these two, which resulted in a difficult conversation.</p> <p>On another front, accessibilities issues abounded. Many presenters didn’t use a microphone; sign-ups were placed out of the reach of at least two people in the group; “stand up” was given as the directive on a number of times, instead of “rise in body or in spirit.” Catie, Devorah, and Wendy all agree that someone needs to put pressure on folks to use the language of rising in body or spirit—Devorah asks if that needs to come from Equal Access, since</p>	<p>Wendy will report back after the follow-up meeting in January.</p>

	JTWTC “monitors and assesses.” Wendy and José suggest the Board should articulate that. Michael says this is on the agenda for the March meeting. Bob asks if this falls under “assessment.” Catie says that people usually dismiss the JTWTC as an “old program from Faith in Action,” and wants to build (with Kelly) a sense of history and who we are now. Devorah says she introduced “rise in body or in spirit” to the UCC Council on Disability, and the language was very welcome. Janice asks if Wendy is comfortable reporting back that she shared her reflections with us—yes.	
Planning for Plenary and Workshop – Janice	<p>We’ve heard from Gini, and won’t hear back until February or March. We need to proceed so that we can offer something at GA. Wendy shares her reflections to the idea of inviting both Presidential candidates—it feels like an opportunity for both of them to campaign more. How do we structure the workshop so that it communicates the vision of the JTWTC? Catie says that, in our conversation with Kay, she offered to help facilitate the creation of this type of workshop. Bob feels that we can carefully design the workshop to make sure it centers around the JTWTC’s vision. José asks about timing—if it happens after voting, how does that affect the workshop? Michael wants to make sure the workshop communicates that we’ll be holding people’s feet to the fire. Wendy will be meeting with both Presidential candidates; she suggests that, whether JTWTC gets Plenary space or not, we should consider sending a question for the candidates to discuss at their Forum. Bob and Catie feel that runs the risk of not getting addressed.</p> <p>Janice wants us to think deeply about a workshop, get some suggestions in while we consider what the Plenary piece might look like. We need to plan for two events, knowing that at some point we may need to pare down to one. We need to have some thoughts by February. Janice, Catie, and Wendy agree that worshipful workshops are nourishing and valuable.</p>	Catie, Janice and Wendy will work on the workshop; Michael will work on the Plenary and will ask if someone else will work with him.
Planning for March Meeting – Michael Self-education * Youth and Young Adult * UU Camps vis-à-vis disabled community * Coalition-Building * Resources (Books, etc.) * Other Ideas Spreading our Wings	<p>Self-education: are there other ideas about what we should do to educate ourselves at our March meeting? Catie asks how this list came about. Devorah brought up the UU Camps list with Carolyn and Arthur. She says the UU Camps group is an affiliate—they should be accountable. Catie wants to know more about what youth are being taught, and what it is that they do. Michael: re: Coalition-Building, the “No on 8” campaign in CA comes to mind—making sure we’re building bridges when we’re working on these issues. Wendy: is this intended to be looking at the way the UUA behaves, our own self-education, and what we can do to advance our AR/AO/MC work? Michael: all three. Wendy asks if we would want to</p>	<p>Devorah and Wendy will work on looking at UU Camps & relationship to affiliates between now and our February meeting.</p> <p>Michael will initiate an email conversation about who wants to work on coalition-building.</p> <p>The committee will spend an</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Excellence in Ministry initiative * Distribution and monitoring of our reports * Visibility at GA and Elsewhere * Other Ideas 	<p>watch “Light in the Shadows”—documentary. Michael is thinking we’ll dedicate three hours to self-education at the March meeting (two 90-minute sessions). Janice says that we should look to the Obama campaign as a model of coalition-building. All committee members agree that coalition-building is timely.</p> <p>Wendy would like to know more about what the UU Camps look like; what is the JTWTTC’s relationship to affiliates?</p> <p>Spreading our Wings: Michael asks if there are other ideas people have; is there anything else we need to do between now and March to prepare?</p> <p>Janice would like us to generate ideas about shifting our identity and profile. Catie says we need visibility; she and Kelly can present “Who We Have Been.”</p>	<p>hour discussing “Spreading our Wings.”</p>
<p>Set Next Meeting: February ? – Michael</p>	<p>Bob asks that we keep calls to not much more than an hour.</p>	<p>Committee members will block out February 5-6 at noon EST and check in with Julio and Kelly re: their schedules.</p>
<p>Covenant Observation – Catie and José</p>	<p>José and Catie agree that members stuck to their covenant.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Ahlquist
January 9, 2009