

Identity-Based Ministries
Report to Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
March 20, 2007

Director's Report

Building the World We Dream About: This welcoming congregation curriculum focusing on race and ethnicity is accepting applications for congregational field tests to be conducted between September 2007 and December 2008. Announcements are included in the April congregational mailing and have been distributed through various UU list serves. Applications must be received by May 1, 2007. Questions about field test applications can be directed to Taquiena Boston, tboston@uua.org.

Office of Accessibility Concerns

The past few months have been busy for the Program Associate in the Office of Accessibility Concerns! Devorah Greenstein presented a workshop about ways to ensure that contemporary worship is accessible and welcoming, as well as began working with the Perkins School for the Blind around adapting and using the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) curriculum with their students. Devorah also worked with congregations in California and Illinois to plan comprehensive accessibility programs in their congregations, as well as began working on a new accessibility manual that will accompany *Tapestry of Faith* religious education curricula for children, youth, and adults.

Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns

Beyond Categorical Thinking (Workshop for Congregations in Search): Forty-two congregations have requested Beyond Categorical Thinking workshops this year, an all-time high, as reported in the January Board Report. In 2008, Id-BM will host a "training of trainers" for Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT). Not only will new facilitators be trained (with an emphasis on people of color, Latino/Latina/Hispanic, people with disabilities, and bisexual and transgender applicants) but there is also a goal of "re-training" continuing BCT facilitators in an updated BCT model that will have undergone significant changes. If you know of people you think would be good BCT facilitators (those with excellent people skills, thick skins, quick on their feet, and a good anti-oppression lens), then encourage them to find out more by contacting Keith Kron, kkron@uua.org.

Welcoming Congregation/Living the Welcoming Congregation: UU *Welcoming Congregations* now number nearly 540, and over 100 *Welcoming Congregations* have applied for the *Living the Welcoming Congregation* materials.

Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns

Program Associate for Racial and Ethnic Concerns – Assessment of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: This position, to be filled for a maximum of 24 months, will serve to develop and conduct an assessment of the UUA ministry with youth and young adults of color and/or

Latina/o Hispanic and multiracial identities; to advocate on behalf of youth and young adults who identify as Latina/o and Hispanic, multiracial, and/or people of color; and to encourage growth in Unitarian Universalist engagement with this ministry. We are hoping to fill this position before General Assembly 2007 so that the final candidate will have the opportunity to engage with our youth and young adults during GA and collaborate with the Consultation on Ministry with Youth.

Multiracial Families and Families of Color retreat test piloted at TJ District Anti-Racism Conference: During the TJ District Anti-Racism Conference in March, 21 adults and 19 youth (representing 15 families and five congregations) participated in a pilot of the multiracial families and families of color retreat programming that has been rebuilt based on the retreats of years past. The initial pilot was very successful. We are planning to utilize district level events as a key method for disseminating this program throughout the UUA. The programming is offered as a component track of larger district gatherings to give our multiracial families and families of color an opportunity to gather together, to provide fellowship and support, and to build connections across our congregations.