

Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee
Conference Call Meeting Notes
June 13, 2012

Present Members: Wendy von Zirpolo, *Co-chair*; Jonipher Kwong; Taquiena Boston, *President's Representative*; Carrie Stewart; Tracey Robinson-Harris; Benjamin Gabel; David Slavin; Walter LeFlore

Not Present: Scott McNeil; Alex Kapitan, *Staff Support*

Start Time: 5:00 PM Eastern Time

End Time: 6:30 PM Eastern Time

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Actions
Opening reading – Wendy	Wendy shared a reading by Naomi Shihab Nye	
Reading from our covenant – Wendy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that we are each and collectively “works in progress,” and that there is no one “right answer.” Speak our truths in constructive and civil ways. 	
Check-in – Wendy	Committee members shared where they are calling from and shared a sentence about their feeling of connection to this group after the spring meeting.	
General Assembly workshop logistics – Wendy	<p>All committee members will be at GA. Discussed logistics related to JTWTC workshop. Wendy, Jonipher, Scott, and Taquiena have had some off-line conversations about the model for the workshop. Wendy can share that email string with the group.</p> <p>Tracy may not be able to attend the JTWTC workshop.</p> <p>The workshop plan: a brief opening into JTWTC, then a few comments to lay the groundwork for the model, then a demonstration of the model, then inviting people to do it with each other with a guiding question, then possibly a large-group debrief. Wendy will send an agenda for the workshop to the group.</p> <p>Wendy will send out an email or meeting wizard asap to find a time for the committee to meet at GA and do last-minute planning for the workshop. Committee members needed to check their GA schedules and couldn't schedule this meeting over the phone. It may not be possible for all members to be present at that meeting.</p> <p>Wendy offered the aside that it is often the case that the committee gives a brief report to plenary at GA, but that is not the case this year.</p>	<p>Wendy will send an agenda for the workshop to the group, as well as the preparatory email string.</p> <p>Wendy will send out an email or meeting wizard asap to find a time for the committee to meet at GA and do last-minute planning for the workshop.</p>
General Assembly	David sent out a communication prior to the call regarding his needs around communication in	

accessibility needs – David	<p>large-group settings, which Wendy got permission to share with the Accountability Group and the Right Relationship Team because it seems like wonderful testimony to pass along. Wendy also asked David if she could send it to Patty Cameron of GA Accessibility Services.</p> <p>David shared that the explanation he sent out was the result of quite a few years of struggling with students in classroom setting. The reason he brought it up now is that open-ended situations like GA and workshops are probably the most difficult thing for him to do. He is entrusting the committee with the information he shared and the emotions that go along with it. He doesn't know how to deal with this situation at GA and is at a loss.</p> <p>Taquiena shared that she appreciated the communication and modeling folks communicating their needs and allowing others to be conscious of them. Ben appreciated David's honesty and openness and expressed the hope that the committee will be able to meet his needs as a group. Noted that there is a way to view many of the noisier, bigger events through the website. Wendy thanked David and wondered if it might be helpful to meet in the workshop space early to find out if there are ways to minimize difficulties. David said that would help. Carrie also thanked David for sharing and speaking his truth. Asked if there are headphones available at GA. Wendy isn't sure but knows there's usually seating areas for people with particular hearing needs, and suggested that David check in with Carol Agate / Accessibility Services. Carrie also pointed out that there's an accessibility section of the GA pages on the UUA website. Wendy also said that committee members all have an opportunity to be an ally in this regard throughout GA. Walter thanked David for heightening his awareness.</p>	
Spring 2013 meeting dates – Wendy	Committee discussed the possible dates for the spring 2013 meeting. Monday May 6 and Tuesday May 7 are the strongest possibility—Tracy needs to check and Wendy will communicate that to Scott as well.	Tracy and Scott need to confirm that they can make a May 6 & 7 spring 2013 meeting in Boston.
Scheduling next conference call – Wendy	<p>Committee decided on 6pm Eastern on Wednesday August 22. Wendy will send out an agenda a full week beforehand and give people the ability to make additions. Would like to incorporate as a process that we line up volunteers on the previous call for process observation and opening readings. David volunteered to do an opening reading. Ben volunteered to be process observer.</p> <p>Confirmed the fall meeting is November 10 & 11 in Boston. Committee members are encouraged to book travel as far in advance as possible.</p>	Next conference call Wednesday 8/22 at 6pm Eastern. Wendy will send out an agenda a full week in advance so that people can offer additions. David volunteered to do an opening reading. Ben volunteered to be process observer.
Finalizing a focus – Wendy	<p>Wendy created and sent around a draft for the JTWTC's future focus based on the discussion at the spring meeting (see Appendix), invited thoughts on the draft, and said the bulk of the agenda for the call in August will be to discuss how to get moving on next steps.</p> <p>David love the idea of developing an alternative to the dominant narrative of this denomination but also would like to see as a focus for the year an alternative narrative to the dominant narrative of this country.</p> <p>Taquiena has been thinking about what does UUism look like from the margins and thinks that would be an interesting reflection for the JTWTC, about narrative and the lens through which we</p>	Committee agreed that Wendy's 5/15 draft of the JTWTC's 2012-13 focus is a living document, to create three subgroups with the intent that it remains a project of the whole group, and that on the August call there will be a conversation about who will do what and agree on "what the what is"

	<p>tell stories or view UUism challenge the dominant story.</p> <p>Walter: The whole notion of an alternative narrative makes sense to me; working in my own congregation I'm surprised how little people understand UUism and where we've been. I've been pushing quite often an interpretation of the term "liberal religious" because most people seem to see "liberal" as political in that phrase.</p> <p>Tracy: What if a few of us (or alternately the whole group) perused the list of items in the draft and tried to suggest needs in order to begin to work out what to do next. Or perhaps the whole group could identify a few aspects for us to take next steps on.</p> <p>Wendy: The pathway toward the creation of the alternative narrative has three items on it and there's 9 of us... So how do folks feel about forming subcommittees to talk about those three items? Committee members felt good about it—it might make sense to have 3-4 people in the third group because of the topic.</p> <p>Jonipher suggested that the committee check in as a large group as often as possible, keep the energy going, keep in mind that we are all working on the same bigger picture. That was something I missed while working on the last report—feeling isolated in the subgroup I was in.</p> <p>David shared that the topic feels very internally UU focused and he's feeling the need for it to be more situated within the larger context of our dominant culture and history.</p> <p>Walter: We do have the ability to edit and adapt things as we go along, and I also think David's concern could be addressed through the first section. David agreed with that possibility.</p> <p>Wendy: Maybe the work of our August meeting is to figure out what the next steps are, having identified the three groups. Walter: It would be good to have a sense by the August call of what each group thought the direction should be for that topic.</p> <p>Wendy proposed that the group recognize that the draft is a living document and that we agree to create three subgroups that will do some fleshing out of possible next steps within each category with the intent that it remains a project of the whole group, and that at the August meeting there will be a conversation about who will do what and agree on "what the what is" going forward. Committee members were in favor.</p>	going forward.
Process observations – Jonipher	Jonipher offered process observations.	

Respectfully submitted,
 Alex Kapitan
 August 15, 2012

APPENDIX

JTWTC 2012-13 Focus
Draft created and emailed around by Wendy
05/15/2012

The JTWTC has identified a goal of creating an alternative narrative to compete with the dominant culture narrative of Unitarian Universalism. The goal emerged following two days of:

- The creation of a timeline including the history of the JTWTC since its formal inception in 1997
- Identification of other association efforts having to do with progress on the journey
- A discussion of the JTWTC mission, charge, accountability and possibilities
- A discussion of class within the context of the journey
- A discussion of theology within the context of the journey

The pathway toward the creation of the alternative narrative will include:

- An assessment of who we believe we are in regard to the journey and who we really are.
- An assessment of the work of the JTWTC including the identification of what has been learned and where the conversation is now.
- The use of energy centers of commitment which support the alternative narrative. These would include congregations and other UU communities engaged in effective transformation in regards to class, faith development, accessibility, transforming individual & communal lives, moving toward wholeness & holiness.