

## Notes from Panel on Theological Education meeting, October 22-23, 2007

**Present:** Barbara Merritt, Chair, David Pettee, Executive Secretary, Beth Miller, Virginia Jarocho-Ernst, Marvin Ellison, Bill Sinkford, Douglas Gallager, Tamara Payne-Alex, Gini Courter, ex-officio. **Absent:** None

### Monday, October 22, 2007

Minutes from April 23-24, 2007 approved as written. (Unanimous)

Agenda approved.

- The Executive Committee opened the discussion with the results of the Board of Trustees retreat on the Excellence in Ministry (EIM).
- The Panel discussed the learnings from the transcript and survey prepared by consultant Amy Curtiss-Davidoff.
- David Pettee discussed his survey of seminarians at UU schools and non-UU schools as part of his report as Executive Secretary.
- The Panel discussed the HDS UU Studies Endowment Fund report
- There was a discussion about minutes received from the recent St Lawrence Foundation's Board of Trustees meeting. The POTE desires minutes of the POTE meeting to be sent in return.

The Panel discussed all the Requests for Proposal that were received and made decisions about grants. RFP's were received from the UUMA Center Committee; the UUA Office of Youth Ministry and Ministry and Professional Leadership; two proposals from the Senior Ministers of Large Unitarian Universalist Congregations; LREDA; Harvard Divinity School; Andover Newton Theological School; the Mountain/Desert District and Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The POTE acknowledged that no RFP was received that addressed Excellence in Ministry through an anti-racist, anti-oppression and multiculturalism lens, and determined this work was necessary and brainstormed possible uses of funds to move this initiative forward.

- Getting feedback from students deeply invested in AR/AO/MC training.
- Conversing with ministers with a deep commitment to AR/AO/MC to see where they obtained their training in order to give us a sense of what the best programs are.
- Inviting the UUMA to provide the Panel with information on Ministers committed to AR/AO/MC training. The POTE aims to have about 15-20 white ministers to survey around these issues.
- Consultation with a researcher to interview ministers and publish findings

The Panel received an update on the work of the UU Scholars Panel, and the work of the UU scholars Lisa Karnan and Alison Downie.

**Tuesday, October 23, 2007**

The Panel spent much of the morning crafting a tentative plan for a Summit on Excellence in Ministry that will build upon the results of the recent surveys and the reports from the projects identified through the Request for Proposal process. A Summit Steering Committee was chosen that included Tamara Payne-Alex, Marvin Ellison and Gini Courter. Beth Miller and David Pettee will provide staff support.

Outcomes of the Summit included:

- To galvanize the energy for defining Excellence in Ministry.
- To articulate goals that will inform ministerial formation and development
- To identify and address barriers that prevent excellence in ministerial formation and development
- To develop priorities for system change
- To lay the foundation for increased capitalization of theological education

The Panel discussed the possible timing of the Summit for either December 2008 or March 2009, which will take place over three days and two nights, with possible locations in either in San Francisco or Orlando. The Panel considered inviting no more than fifty people from a broad range of stakeholder groups.

The Panel developed a budget for the Summit on Excellence in Ministry and began preliminary discussion of the FY 2009 budget for review at the January 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees, that would recommend that no less than \$200,000 be allocated during the next fiscal year to Meadville Lombard Theological School and to Starr King School for the Ministry.