

April 20, 2009

Panel on Theological Education

9:00am – 4:00pm

Present: Barbara Merritt, Tamara Payne Alex, Dough Gallagher, William Sinkford, Gini Courter, Robert Hardies, David Pettee, Beth Miller

Not Present: Marvin Ellison, Virginia Jarocho-Ernst,

Guests: Laurel Hillman, Harlan Limpert

Our check in, involved answering the question: How do we go about fostering UU identity?

The minutes from the October 2008 and January 2009 POTE meetings were approved as transcribed.

The Panel received the recommendations of the UU Scholars Committee.

The Panel received anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism training from Tracey Robinson-Harris.

Lay Theological Education

The Panel met with Harlan Limpert, Chairperson of the Lay Theological Task Force to discuss the various initiatives being taken by that group to advance shared ministry in our movement. Some of the highlights in Harlan's report included:

- An application form was created inviting proposals for lay theological training and curriculum. These initiatives will be funded through Association Sunday.
- Four applications have been received since January 2009. 12 applications are on the way.
- Approximately 24 applications are expected by the October 1, 2009 deadline.
- There is some criticism of this initiative because the mission of this project revolves around funding projects that are already well underway.
- Seminaries are trying to take advantage of the lay theological training by offering courses in lay theological education. These courses are very expensive and not covered by the grant.
- Approval of the grant is contingent on applicants collaborating with colleagues in other congregations.

Asset Mapping

The Panel recognized that there was a need to re-examine its current funding strategy to focus on the vision set by the Excellence in Ministry summit in December. This includes setting aside funds for projects around the eight initiatives outlined at the Excellence in Ministry summit in December and to help create a more effective accountability structure with the UU theological seminaries.

Additionally, the Panel acknowledged that UU seminaries are greatly underfunded and that there was a critical need to look into methods of cultivating funding.

Follow-up on the Excellence in Ministry Eight Areas of Priority Chosen by the Summit Participants

1. **Right Relationship with Theological Schools** - The UUA Board is working on this project.
2. **What is the Model of the Church we are Assuming for Leadership Training?**- The UUA Board is the umbrella, along with various stakeholders, including the Panel.
3. **Ministerial Culture**, UU Growth and Impact of the Credentialing Process- The UUA Board has realigned their working groups to focus exclusively on Excellence in Ministry. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee has been charged to oversee a process to examine the credentialing process.
4. **Whose are We?** The UUMA is moving this initiative forward.
5. **AR/AO/MC Resistance**- The UUMA is committed to making AR/AO/MC a clear priority. It is likely that IDBM will house this initiative because they have the capacity to consider how to minister to historically oppressed communities. The Panel should look into how staff is receiving AR/AO/MC training for purposes of possible application to ministers. Additionally, the Panel could look into AR/AO/MC training programs in congregations.
6. **Collaborating for Collegiality and Continuing Education**- UUMA providing leadership.
7. **Lay Theological Education**- Harlan Limpert's task force is underway.
8. **Fostering Ministerial Maturity and Spiritual Depth**- Beth Miller and David Pettee were in Denver in February to meet with representatives from four districts that contain multid denominational seminaries with UU students to collaborate on the "Living Into Covenant" initiative. "Dreaming Big" provides coaching and mentoring programs for ministers. One of the biggest aims is to foster a UU identity that is agile and one that caters to the wide range of visions of the various congregations. One suggestion is to use the Lovinger personal asset evaluation and apply it to ministers.

April 21, 2009
9:00am – 12:00pm

UUA Board report was received.

Executive Secretary report was received.

FY'10 Budget discussion

The following table outlines the proposed budget for FY'10 subject to approval by the Board of Trustees at General Assembly in June 2009.

FY'10 Budget Allocation	
Available	\$609,735
Allocated	\$609,420
Unallocated	\$315
Internship Clearinghouse	\$32,500
Panel Expenses	\$10,000
UU Scholars	\$22,420
Renaissance Modules	\$15,000
Harvard Divinity School	\$30,000
Andover Newton Theological Seminary	\$25,000
Meadville Lombard	\$190,000
Meadeville Lombard Stipend	\$25,000
Starr King	\$190,000
Starr King Stipend	\$25,000
"Living into Covenant" initiative,	
Jason Priestly District	\$15,000
Excellence in Ministry Follow-up	\$20,000
Seeding Excellence	\$9,500