



Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

April 2011

As I reported previously, the UUWF board has made a top priority of refining the criteria for and increasing the accountability of our three funding programs. Revised applications were posted on our website in mid-January, and I am pleased to report that among the criteria for our Equity and Justice Grants Program is the following:

Priority is also given to projects that address the Unitarian Universalist Association's [priority social justice issues](#), as those issues relate to women and girls . . .

Such efforts mark the way the UUWF can support the UUA while furthering our own mission of advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth. The UUWF board followed up with a similar initiative in March, when we joined the Association in issuing a [statement in protest](#) of federal funding cuts to Planned Parenthood and Title X. Each of our organizations has a long history of activism in the field of reproductive justice. It is especially appropriate natural that we lift up our voices to oppose this threat to the reproductive health of the most vulnerable among us.

Among our other news, our board recently appointed Mary Teslow, president of the UU Fellowship of Franklin, NC, to our Margaret Fuller Grants Panel, the committee charged with selecting recipients of grants that support accessible projects in UU religious feminisms. We welcome Mary to our work.

Like the UUA and some other UU organizations, UUWF has a restricted fund that benefits the widows and daughters of deceased UU ministers. In recent years we have awarded some of these funds to the widows of Transylvanian Unitarian ministers. Active partners in their husbands' ministries, these women were left in particularly bad straits when Unitarian pension funds were looted while their country was under the dominion of the Soviet Union. With the help of the UU Partner Church Council, in January we transferred \$3,000 for distribution to 33 widows: \$50 can purchase enough firewood for the entire winter for a woman living in a rural village.

We are especially looking forward to General Assembly in Charlotte, where we will join with other UUs from across the continent in celebrating the UUA's 50th anniversary. I can't help but think that our two GA workshops – "How UU Women Gather in 21st Century Congregations," and "Justice Work for and by Women" – suggest a number of intriguing possibilities for the UUA's next 50 years.

And we are also looking forward to celebrating the UUWF's 50th in 2013!

Faithfully,

Rev. Marti Keller

Rev. Marti Keller, President, UUWF