

Article 2 Study Commission Board Report

January, 2022

Recent happenings:

- Though the Commission still has many stakeholders and other UUs to hear from, we have begun to see many common threads throughout the feedback we've received so far. So in addition to our more open-ended meetings, we will be adding some meetings and events for participants to begin to wrestle with more specific language. We are not intending proposed language to indicate a commitment to those particular words, but rather to begin to set a sense of how certain words and phrases resonate or don't. Our philosophy around this is to "fail fast" and we expect our language to evolve over time.

Current projects & initiatives:

- Stakeholder Conversations
 - Paula and Rob had a great meeting with the UU Ministry for Earth last week
 - Cheryl and Paula will be holding a Finding Our Way Home Pre-Gathering Focus Group in early February.
 - Our workshop for Youth on covenant was postponed, but we hope to hold it in February, and we are planning a meeting with UUA Youth program staff to create other engaging opportunities for Youth.
 - We are in the process of contacting other Stakeholder groups.
- Open Events
 - We have launched an "[Article 2 Individual Survey](#)" that is open to any and all. This is a comprehensive survey on our four areas of inquiry. We hope this will help to catch folks who we might miss through our stakeholder meeting process. This survey will close April 30, as we enter the next phase of our work.
 - Our next Speakers Series event, on Covenant, will be Jan. 27. Look for a link soon on our facebook page. These will feature engaging speakers on each of our four topics: Values, Inspirations, Purpose, and Covenant. Our first event, a [Conversation on Covenant](#) can be viewed at the link.
 - We will be holding monthly, drop-in "Office Hours" events where anyone is welcome to attend and ask questions of the Commissioners. Our first session will be Monday, Feb. 28 at 3pm Eastern. A registration invitation will be available soon. We'd love to see you there!
- Congregational Resources
 - All of our planned resources are now available! (and free to download and use, of course) Most can be found on our [Resources](#) page, including:
 - "[Love in Action](#)," — Rev. Aisha Ansano and Rev. Emily Conger of Nourish have created a wonderful dinner church service for youth and young adult groups focusing on shared values.
 - [Conversation Starter Slide Set](#) — These slides can be used in congregations or other groups to get folks thinking about Big Picture

questions. Each question features a link to that question's survey so we can get quick feedback from participants.

- [Promises for a New Unitarian Universalism](#) — This short workshop plan can be used in youth and young adult groups to think deeply about covenanting for Beloved Community
- [Small Group Ministry Guide](#) — This six-session program for Adult Faith Development programs (or any other interested groups!) will guide participants through our Big Picture questions
- UU Wellspring — If communities want to dive more deeply into a discerning exploration of Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Viola Abbitt and Rayven Holmes have crafted an excellent curriculum in the UU Wellspring style. This rich and creative eight-session curriculum is free to use, and is being administered through the UU Wellspring organization. To access materials or just investigate whether the program is right for your group, complete the [Facilitator Interest form](#).
- Data Analysis
 - We have received several RFPs for this position and look to hire someone soon.

On the horizon:

- Speakers Series on Covenant, Jan. 27
- Drop-in "Office Hours" with the Commissioners, Feb. 28, 3pm Eastern
- Commissioners Retreat, early March

Learnings and Hopes:

- We continue to adjust our meeting times to meet the scheduling needs of the group and make productive use of our time together and apart.

Support we need: Please spread the word about our open survey and the congregational resources available (all links included above). Thanks very much!

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Brooks,
On behalf of the Article 2 Study Commission