

Religious Education Credentialing Committee Meeting Précis
April 15 – April 18, 2024
Online

Present: Sara Lewis, Mia Morse, Jill Sampson, Rev. Emily Gage, Rev. Bob Renjilian, Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill (Professional Development Programs Manager), Aastha Poudel (Professional Development Assistant) and Matt Vasko (Credentialed Observer).

The meeting convened at approximately 12 p.m. ET on Monday, April 15, 2024.

Anti-Oppression, Anti-Racism, and Multicultural Training

The committee has opted to complete our anti-racism, anti-oppression training for the 2024 year at our retreat in June. This year's selection is learning more about disability inclusion and accessibility, especially as it pertains to educational & credentialing programs. We continue our work on the 5-year strategic plan (starting year 2 in May), which includes defining Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the purposes of the committee; gathering data on identities of those in the program, those who leave the program and why, and why some may never start the program; and an accessibility audit and goal-setting for program accessibility and transparency.

Candidate Awards

The following individuals were awarded Credentialed Religious Educator – Advanced Level status:

- Amy Kayte Brock
- Skyla King-Christison
- Marena McGregor
- Stacy Sceiford

RECC Business agenda items included:

- Delivery of the RECC Chair, Meeting Observer's, and Professional Development Manager's reports.
- Questions from meeting attendees.

Dates and Location of Future RECC Meetings

The 2024 RECC meeting met online. Accommodating the dates of Easter, Passover and first/last days of Ramadan, here is the schedule for future years:

- The 2025 RECC meeting will take place Sun 4/27/25 - Sat 5/3/25 online.
- The 2026 RECC meeting will take place Sun 4/19/26 – Sat 4/25/26 online.
- The 2027 RECC meeting will take place Sun 4/11/27 – Sat 4/17/27 online.
- The 2028 RECC meeting will take place Sun 4/23/28 – Sat 4/29/28 online.

Committee Member Changes

The Rev. Claudia Jiménez began as the LREDA Representative to the RECC July 1, 2023, replacing Patti Withers.

Jill Sampson began as a lay leader on the RECC July 1, 2024, replacing Peter Kandis.

Art Nava was hired as UUA staff and had to resign as committee chair in early 2024; Sara Lewis agreed to serve as interim Committee Chair until a new chair could be determined. The Rev. Emily Gage has agreed to chair the committee July 2024-June 2025.

Credentialed Observer Report

Matt Vasko presented the Credentialed Observer's Report, which is posted on uua.org.

Future Meetings

- The RECC will be on retreat in June 2024.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. ET on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Appendix

- A. [RECC Cultural Assessment Report, April 2022 \(PDF\)](#) by MMAPEU Consulting
- B. [MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES STATEMENTS | 2022 \(PDF\)](#)

Religious Education Credentialing Committee

Mission

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee (RECC), a Committee of the UUA Board of Trustees, is tasked with stewarding and shepherding the religious credentialing process for those religious educators seeking increased professional development. We create a comprehensive path towards professional proficiency, excellence, and status. The Committee is oriented and committed to providing an encouraging and affirming process. Recognizing how essential it is for the UUA and its congregations to have a broad array of religious educators, we encourage, commit, and advocate for fully engaging diversity among our stakeholders and those pursuing RECC credentials.

Vision

The RECC envisions

- Professional religious educators taking full advantage of the credentialing path that supports and affirms candidates bringing their whole selves and diverse lived experiences as religious educational professionals.
- A community of religious educators seeking credentialing that represents the full diverse array of social identities, including but not limited to – race/ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, geography, economic class, physical ability, neurodiversity, relationship orientation, and educational levels.
- Religious educators who are compensated appropriately and adequately in their roles that reflects the impact and responsibility of shepherding the learning and growth of congregations and organizational entities within the UUA.
- A credentialing process that understands and affirms the impact religious educators have on congregations, including educational, spiritual, maturational, and systemic growth.
- A religious education credentialing process that engages religious professionals along their full journey of credentialing — from initial inquiry to completion and celebration of credentialed status.

- A religious educators' credentialing process and religious education credentialing program eco-system that establishes and supports appropriate structures, policies and procedures.
- A RECC whose members represent the diversity of stakeholders influential and critical to the successful and impactful creation of religious educators that serve UU Congregations and other settings with grace, intellect, empathy, creativity, and spirit.
- Creating mutual accountability between religious professionals seeking credentialing and the work of the RECC that manifests grace-filled, respectful, kind, empathetic, and dynamic professional development experiences.
- A process that provides the opportunity and supports any and all of those seeking a path towards professional religious education in a way that nurtures all aspects of who they are, and provides access to credentialing in a respectful, nurturing and holistic way.

Values

We believe in the importance of embodying and supporting

- Respect and appreciation
- Bringing one's whole self
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Economic accessibility
- Collaboration
- Professional excellence
- Acceptance and support of various learning styles
- High quality ongoing professional growth opportunities