

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Commission on Appraisal



January Meeting, 2009

Boston, MA

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January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Present:** Tom Owen-Towle, Don Mohr, Bev Harrison, Jacqui Williams, Pete Fontneu, Orlanda Brugnola, Barbara Child, Michael Ohlrogge

The meeting began with a check in and a reflection by Tom Owen-Towle.

## **Recap of presentation to the UUA Board**

Orlanda & Barbara shared their experiences presenting to the board. The Commission discussed potential insights and guides the board's response could have for the Commission's work and strategy moving forward.

## **Presentation by Gini on GA Process:**

Gini Courter met with the Commission to discuss process at GA '09 for consideration of the Commission's proposal. The Commission discussed the issue of amendments being allowed only if they are "non-substantive". Gini clarified that her interpretation of this would be that only the most minor, typographical sorts of amendments would be allowed, because for anything bigger that people might feel strongly needs changing, "if it's worth fighting for, then it must be substantive". Gini and the Commission also clarified that the focus and substance of the vote and discussion at this year's GA won't be on the merits of the Commission's proposal, but will instead be whether it should be sent to the congregations for a year of study. Because there won't be a place for substantive amendments, there would be no purpose in having a traditional mini-assembly, and so instead the Commission will work with Gini to create a more open type of discussion of the Commission's proposal before the delegates vote on it. The interest of both Gini and the Board is that that there be a good, quality conversation both at GA and in the congregations the following year.

## **Inspirational and Aspirational Questions for Reflection on the Proposal**

The commission generated a lengthy list of potential questions to spark reflection about its current proposal for Article II. These questions were discussed and refined in small groups and then passed on to Barbara and Tom to create a final draft for the March meeting.

## **Financial Report:**

By Jacqui Williams:

- We're low on money. We're over budget for travel and other expenses. Pre January meeting, we had spent 52% of our budget. Next year's budget figures are due before March's meeting.
- We have \$17,000 left, including \$1,000 of unspent printing money.

## **Marketing Report & Discussion:**

### **REPORT BY BEV:**

- The primary message between now and GA is that the vote at GA is about whether to send the document on to the congregations.
  - We might not need the questions that we're working on until after GA. People's attention will be called to the draft by the UU World. If anything, we might not need the questions until what's needed for the delegates to prep.
  - We could easily put the revised board report and the questions out in early April, when people start thinking seriously about GA.
  - If we send out the questions in dribbles, then it might be permission to ignore us.
  - Right now, the main focus is the delegates to GA, rather than congregational discussion, which would be more likely to happen in 2009-2010.
- At most, our paper mailing would just be a brief thing in the congregational packets that tell people to go to our website where we put up questions, materials, etc.

**AGREEMENT:** We'll wait until we can work on the questions more at the March Meeting before we release them to the world. Barbara will fiddle with the questions between now and March. Commissioners can send Barbara potential new questions by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

- On the website, we could have available certain background and historical documents for people to better understand the context of what we've done. Could also include link to resources on the UUA website to right relationship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Ohlrogge, Secretary  
Commission on Appraisal