

## **Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting of the Commission on Appraisal**

**September 15, 2014**

**Present:** Erica Baron, John Cullinan, Megan Dowdell, Lynne Garner, John Hawkins, Nato Hollister, Xolani Kacela, Nana Kratochvil, Myriam Renaud

**Opening:** Nana' presented opening words. We introduced ourselves to Xolani, who is new on the Commission.

### **Discussion of January Meeting:**

The Commission has had difficulty arranging a time for our usual January meeting. We discussed an alternative to our usual in-person meeting, which is to have each Commissioner engage their local setting - either congregation or community - in some study, conversation, reflection, etc. around issues of class. We discussed trying to have a uniform program, but decided that each program will be tailored to the context. We will discuss this in detail at our meeting in October.

### **Conversation with the UUA Board**

The Commission has time on the UUA Board agenda on October 18 at 2:45 pm. The Commission discussed our use of this time, and who is available to join the meeting by calling in.

Xolani, Nana', John H, Lynne, and Myriam agreed to join the meeting from a distance. Nana', Nato, Xolani, and John H will discuss plans about what we want to say and ask.

### **October Meeting**

The Commission has invited trainer Lydia Pelot-Hobbs from the AORTA Collective to lead intersectionality training at our October meeting. We discussed whether to ask her to work with us for a half- or full-day, and what payment to offer based on AORTA's sliding

scale. We agreed to invite her to work with us for a full-day at the mid-level cost. We also made other decisions about our time together.

### **Progress on Reading**

Myriam reported on the progress of our reading. Commissioners are reading three common texts: *Beyond Outrage* by Robert Reich, *Missing Class* by Betsy Leondar-Wright, and *Towards Collective Liberation* by Chris Crass. Each has a lead reporter who will create a book report by October 1. Individual Commissioners have read and created book reports on the following:

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2009. (Erica)

Mark W. Harris. *Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History*. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2011. (John H.)

Joerg Rieger, ed. *Religion, Theology, and Class: Fresh Engagements after Long Silence*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. (Myriam)