



## The Multicultural Ministries Sharing Project July 22, 2013 through October 31, 2013!

### What is the Sharing Project?

The Multicultural Ministries Sharing Project is an important opportunity for opportunity for people who identify as Unitarian Universalist (whether or not they are part of a congregation) and who have historically marginalized identities/experiences around ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, race, and/or ethnicity to reflect on their experiences and needs as Unitarian Universalists.

### What is the purpose of the Sharing Project?

The purpose of the Sharing Project is to help congregational and UUA leaders and staff understand where we are now and what we'll need to be well-equipped to meet the ministry needs of people from historically marginalized communities already in our congregations and those seeking liberal religious homes

The Sharing Project consists of two major components:

- a survey, and
- a series of sharing circles

In the survey, we hope to hear from a wide range of people about their unique experiences and needs as people who have historically marginalized identities/experiences within Unitarian Universalism.

In Part 2 of the Sharing Project, which will take place in the late fall of 2013, we'll be hosting virtual sharing circles (phone or video conference, Tweet chat or Facebook group discussions) to delve more deeply into the big questions raised by the preliminary survey results.

### Who can participate?

We are looking to hear from people whose visual, hearing, mobility, psychiatric, intellectual, and/or other physical abilities (including chemical sensitivity and food allergies) can make it difficult to participate fully in mainstream spaces; people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or otherwise have a sexual orientation or gender identity/expression that doesn't conform to cultural norms; and people of color, multiracial/multiethnic people, and others with racial/ethnic/cultural heritages that are marginalized today.

### What about other marginalized folks?

We wish we could hear from everyone with any marginalized identity or experience, but for now we are focusing on ability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and race/ethnicity because of the articulated, longstanding commitments that have been made around these identities and experiences within Unitarian Universalism. We hope to be able to lift up the ways additional factors like class, nationality, theological/spiritual identity, and more intersect for respondents, and keep the conversation going.

### **Do I have to belong to a congregation?**

No! All sorts of Unitarian Universalist identification are welcome here— members and regular attendees of Unitarian Universalist congregations, camps, groups, or other communities; people who used to be Unitarian Universalist and no longer consider themselves so; people who feel an affiliation with Unitarian Universalism and have no formal connection to a Unitarian Universalist group or community; and so on.

### **I'm a white, able-bodied, heterosexual, cisgender person. Can I participate?**

In order to be able to listen closely to people whose voices are not always heard, we ask that you not complete the survey yourself, but that, instead, you work to promote the survey to people you know who have historically marginalized identities/experiences.

### **How do I participate in the survey?**

Between July 22, 2013, and October 31, 2013, go here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUAMMSP> or scan this QR Code

(because of the length of the survey, you might want to scan the code and email yourself the link so you can take the survey on a device other than a phone).



### **What about people who have difficulty using a computer? Can they participate?**

Especially because we are committed to reaching out to people with disabilities in this project, if you or someone you know cannot participate in the survey due to visual, intellectual, or other disabilities, or do not have access to a computer, please contact Multicultural Ministries at [multicultural@uaa.org](mailto:multicultural@uaa.org), (617) 948-6461, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. We'll make every effort to find alternative ways for people to participate in the project.

### **Will my information be kept confidential?**

All identifying information will be kept strictly confidential. We will be reporting on the aggregate data and might quote from comments made in the survey and in the sharing circles, but we will not collect individual identifying information.

### **How will the results be shared?**

We plan to publish a report during the 2014 Thirty Days of Love (Jan 18-Feb 16). In addition, we will be working with UUA communication networks, social media outlets, district/regional staff, affiliated and related organizations, and anyone else who is interested to make the results available and, perhaps even more importantly, to talk about their implications for the future of Unitarian Universalism. What do we need to continue doing and what do we need to strengthen in order to be truly welcoming and inclusive congregations and communities?

### **What is Multicultural Ministries?**

Multicultural Ministries is part of the Multicultural Growth & Witness staff group of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The mission of the Multicultural Growth & Witness staff group is to empower Unitarian Universalist congregations and community leaders to minister effectively in our multicultural world. To learn more about Multicultural Growth & Witness, please visit [www.uua.org/mgw](http://www.uua.org/mgw).

### **If I have questions or feedback about the Sharing Project, who should I contact?**

Annette Marquis, LGBTQ and Multicultural Ministries Program Manager, at [amarquis@uaa.org](mailto:amarquis@uaa.org) (on sabbatical until 10/7/2013)

Janice Marie Johnson, Multicultural Ministries and Leadership Director, at [jmjohnson@uaa.org](mailto:jmjohnson@uaa.org)

Alex Kapitan, LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Administrator, at [akapitan@uaa.org](mailto:akapitan@uaa.org)

Thank you! We hope to hear from YOU!