

JTWTC Report to 2009 GA

The current Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee's work is built upon decades of earlier racial justice and anti-oppression work. The committee was created by the 1997 General Assembly resolution based on the comprehensive report presented to the 1996 GA by the Racial and Cultural Diversity Task Force. The 1997 resolution recommended that the UUA Board appoint a group to help move the work of anti-racism and multi-culturalism forward. The UUA took courageous steps to be willing to examine its own past and current structures in order to transform our association of congregations into an open, accountable institution decision-making is a shared process that includes those who have not previously had such access.

The Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee has had a complex history since its inception in 1997. It was originally charged with developing and guiding programming and monitoring the transformation of the UUA into an anti-racist, multi-cultural community. A major focus was understanding and addressing racism in the denomination through training individuals and groups at all levels. Eventually the committee's portfolio of responsibilities was expanded to include attention to other, linked oppressions.

In 2006, the JTWTC and the Board of Trustees agreed that the committee's mandate should be limited to monitoring and assessing the UUA's progress in transforming itself into an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural community.

During this recent period, the committee

- Has carefully examined and described efforts to bring about attitudinal change at and the congregational levels via the District structure.
- Has researched the ways in which ministerial candidates are vetted by the Regional Sub-Committees on Candidacy and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee
- Is currently examining how selections and appointments to associational committees are made by the Board's Committee on Committees and the Nominating Committee.

As part of its role in monitoring linked oppressions, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee has recently assumed the monitoring portfolio of the former Accessibilities Committee.

The Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee is committed to realizing the dream of the Beloved Community -- fully anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural.