

UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee
Meeting Precipis
October 23-26, 2006
Orlando, FL

Members Present: Liz Jones – Chair, Pam Allen-Thompson (UUA Board Liaison,) Gail Forsyth-Vail, Kirk Loadman-Copeland, Steve Lynn, Colleen McDonald, Sue McGovern, Kathryn Warrior. Ex Officio: Beth Miller, Beth Williams, A’ashia Short (Recorder.)
Credentialed Observer: Kathleen Carpenter.

The meeting was opened at approximately 12:45 pm on October 23, 2006.

The minutes from the March 2006 meeting were approved, with corrections. Action items and reports from Liz Jones and Beth Williams were reviewed.

Accessibility Issues – the possibility of encouraging development of reading-list resources in alternative media (cDs, tapes) to meet the needs of non-visual learners was discussed. This will be pursued by the RECC in the future. A report from a candidate on an online course in learning theories was discussed. This course will be recommended to candidates in the future.

A/O-A/R Issues – Sue facilitated a discussion of Waist High in the World: a Life among the Nondisabled by Nancy Mairs.

Background Checks – as part of the Responsible Staffing initiative, a draft policy and procedures were submitted to require participants in the RE Credentialing program to provide a background check and disclose incidents of arrest for particular types of violation or offense. This policy will correspond to the policy of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and is pending legal review and a possible addition to the RECC rules. *Effective date is to be determined.*

Candidate Awards – The following candidate was awarded Credentialed Religious Educator status: Leia Durland-Jones.

Equivalency Evaluation – Gail reported for the Equivalency sub-Committee that Cathy Cartwright was awarded an equivalency for a Bachelor’s degree, and Cindy Leitner was awarded an equivalency for a Master’s degree.

Evaluative Interview Procedure – It was decided that the RE Credentialing Program Director would no longer participate in asking questions of the candidate in order to strengthen the nurturing quality of the relationship with the candidate.

Forms/Documents: Existing

Outcomes Survey for Congregations and ***Outcomes Survey for Congregations*** – a policy was made that in addition to being sent out one year after each individual has been credentialed, the surveys will be sent out every three years thereafter. The Personnel

Committee (or function) will be added as a responder to the Outcomes Survey for Congregations. *Policy is effective immediately.*

Policies document (draft) – the draft of the RECC Policies document was completed and reviewed. Distribution awaits final approval of the policies by the RECC. *Effective immediately.*

Forms/Documents: New

Competencies Continuum – a draft of a chart of the scope of required competency in all competency areas at all credentialing levels was reviewed. It was agreed that more work needed to be done in developing a general taxonomy in the expected differences of demonstrated knowledge and skill between the three credentialing levels, in order to better articulate the scope of each competency to candidates. *Once the Continuum chart is complete, it will apply to all new candidates and optionally apply to existing candidates.*

Future Meetings – The March 2007 meeting will take place March 12-16 at the Wyndham Hotel, San Jose, CA. A session of the meeting open to all interested parties will take place on the morning of Thursday, March 16. The October 2007 meeting will be held the week before LREDA Fall Conference in San Antonio, TX. Nashville, TN and St. Louis, MO are being investigated as possible sites for the March 2008 meeting.

Inactive Candidate Status – A procedure was approved for a candidate to return to the program from Inactive Candidate Status: A new essay must be submitted, explaining to the RECC why the candidate feels s/he is ready to move forward in the program at this time, and a plan for completion of the program must be developed with the RE Credentialing Program Director. *Policy is effective immediately.*

Portfolios and Completion Materials – It was decided that in conjunction with the “reader” of the portfolio, the RE Credentialing Director would be more proactive in working with a candidate on any perceived deficiencies in the candidate’s portfolio or completion materials. *Effective immediately.*

Publicity – Requests for the following workshops will be submitted:

GA Workshop – Gardeners of the Spirit: Growing RE Professionalst

An exploration of ways in which a congregation can support and nurture the acquisition and deepening of professional skills, knowledge, and competencies of those who lead faith development programs.

LREDA Fall Conference Workshop – something on the topic of Credentialing as formation

A UUMA Center Day workshop will not be requested this year

Reading Lists

Unified Reading List – a draft of a single reading list containing required and optional reading for all three credentialing levels was reviewed. It was agreed that more work needed to be done in evaluating the new resources being added to the list, and to coordinate the list with the Competencies Continuum. *Once the Unified Reading List is complete, it will apply to all new candidates and optionally apply to existing candidates.*

Vision & Mission Statement – The following was submitted as a draft for an RECC Vision & Mission Statement:

Vision

The vision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee is a strong and healthy educational ministry through faith development in our Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Mission

The mission of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee is to develop professional standards and credential religious educators to serve the Unitarian Universalist movement.

We will do this by:

- Identifying an accepted core of competencies and skills.
- Evaluating candidates and granting credentials.
- Affirming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive perspective in all of our processes and practices.
- Educating congregations about the need for and advantages of supporting professional growth and development of religious educators.
- Encouraging the building of accountability and right relationships among religious educators, professional colleagues, and lay leaders.
- Preparing professional religious educators to provide programmatic resources that strengthen and challenge their congregations in order to transform lives and make the world a better place.

The Vision & Mission statement is waiting final approval of the RECC.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 pm on October 26, 2006.