

**UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee**  
**Meeting Précis**  
**April 1 – 4, 2008**  
**Boston, MA**

Members Present: Gail Forsyth-Vail (Chair), Russell Araujo, Colleen McDonald, Kirk Loadman-Copeland, Jan Devor, Kathryn Warrior, Steve Lynn, Will Saunders  
Ex Officio: Beth Miller, Beth Williams, Paula Welling (Recording Secretary)  
Credentialed Observer: Cathy Cartwright

The meeting convened at approximately 9:00 am on April 1, 2008.

The minutes from the March 2007 meeting were approved, with typographical corrections. Action items and reports from Gail Forsyth-Vail, Beth Miller, and Beth Williams were reviewed.

**Accessibility Issues** – The RECC meeting was open to the public from 9 – 11 am on Friday, April 4.

**A/O-A/R Issues**

The committee members read the essay, “The Courage of Our Contradictions: Perspectives on a Time of Trauma” from *Stations of the Spirit* by Victor Carpenter and watched “The Wilderness Journey.” Bill Norris facilitated a discussion of the implications of the issues raised by both the book and the video for how the RECC does its work.

The committee discussed the pay equity issue which exists for credentialed vs. long-term non-credentialed Religious Educators, and also discussed the issue of whether the Master’s Level Credential requires excessive work for the financial benefits it provides to those who are credentialed. This sentence

**Candidate Awards** – The following candidates were awarded Credentialed Religious Educator status: Lynn Hunt and Karen LoBracco.

**Credentialing Process** – The RECC delegates to the RECP Director the decision on granting Hold status to candidates, including those who are currently inactive, for pastoral issues that are not emergencies.

**Equivalencies** – The Equivalency Subcommittee reported on waivers granted for mentor meetings missed, for a waiver granted for an undergraduate degree, and a request to re-enter the program at a higher credentialing level which was accepted based on an essay the candidate wrote at the committee’s request.

**Forms/Documents: Existing** – The RECC Mission Statement will be edited to add “multicultural” in the bullet point with “anti-racist, anti-oppressive.”

## **Future Meetings**

FALL 2008: Monday, October 27 – Thursday, October 30, 2008 at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn, 1015 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM. This is near the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, where the LREDA meeting will be held.

SPRING 2009: Monday, April 27 – Thursday, April 30, 2009 at the Eliot & Pickett House, Boston, MA.

**Mentor's Role** – Sample portfolios for each credentialing level will be made available on the website so mentors will have concrete examples to work with.

## **Ministry To and With Youth**

The RECC will engage in an audit of the credentialing program documents with a youth ministry lens.

The committee will invite a credentialed educator with expertise in youth ministry to serve as the credentialed observer for the October 2008 meeting.

**Portfolios and Audio-Visual Materials** – The committee decided by vote that candidates for the credentialed and masters level must submit their portfolio to the RECP director for feedback and review prior to their meeting with RECC, with two sections submitted well before the meeting at a time to be determined by the director.

## **Publicity**

### ***GA Workshop: Layleaders' Guide to RE Excellence***

The desired outcome of an excellent religious education program is that the young people become lifelong UUs and use UU principles in their young adult lives. Given the complexity, the importance, and what excellence looks like, having a credentialed religious educator and helping them develop those skills is essential. We want at least one ah-ha! moment for each person attending the workshop.

Leaders: Kirk Loadman-Copeland, Gail Forsyth-Vail, and Liz Jones

### ***LREDA Professional Day Workshop: Mentoring for Formation***

The workshop will begin with a discussion of mentoring, what it is, and how it connects with the RE Credentialing program. The theory of formation will be introduced, and mentor/mentee pairs will tell their own stories of formation. Practical scenarios will be presented of mentors working with mentees on how and why to use portfolio items to demonstrate leadership.

Leaders: Gail Forsyth-Vail, Beth Williams, and Jan Devor

**LREDA Fall Conference 2008 Workshop: *Professional Formation as a Spiritual Practice***

The workshop will focus on professional formation, what it is, and how to find the “firm ground” of one’s own identity and the integrity of one’s own soul. Presentations by educators who have extended themselves professionally will explore what they have done and how they grew. How to experience success will be discussed, with an awareness that educators need to look beyond their congregations to be “fed.”

Leaders: Gail Forsyth-Vail, Beth Williams, and Jan Devor

**Religious Leader Article**

An article will be written on the transformation of religious education by the theories of Channing and other progressives, and the need to return to that.

**RECC Rules** – Recent MFC rules changes were evaluated for inclusion in the RECC rules. The committee voted to approve adopting the rule changes pending approval by the Board.

**Young Adult Issues** – The committee heard a presentation from two young adult DREs, neither currently credentialed, about their experiences and what they have heard about the credentialing program from their contemporaries. Young adults are looking for a career path, and DRE salaries are a huge issue if being a DRE is going to be seen as a career. More young adults are working in religious education, but they are not seeing an increase in young adult congregants.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm on April 4, 2008.