

**UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee**  
**Meeting Précis**  
**October 27 – 30, 2008**  
**Albuquerque, NM**

Members Present: Gail Forsyth-Vail (Chair), Kathryn Warrior, Kirk Loadman-Copeland, Beth Miller (Director – MPL & Executive Secretary, present on Monday and Tuesday morning), Russ Araujo, Jan Devor, Colleen McDonald, Will Saunders, Beth Williams (RE Credentialing Director), Dana Regan (Credentialed Observer), Steve Lynn, Paula Welling (RE Credentialing Assistant & Recording Secretary)

The meeting convened at approximately 2pm on October 27, 2008.

The minutes from the April 2008 meeting were approved with no corrections. Action items from that meeting were reviewed and updated.

Reports were received from Gail Forsyth-Vail, RECC Chair, Beth Williams, RE Credentialing Program Director, Jan Devor, LREDA Liaison, Will Saunders, UUA Board Liaison, and Beth Miller, Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership.

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

Two members of the committee who have not had sufficient A/O-A/R training will take training.

Our AO/AR/MC experience was a field trip to the National Hispanic Cultural Center. The multimedia presentation made understanding accessible outside of words, with images and rituals. Committee members gained a better understanding of the complexity of Hispanic culture and engaged in questioning the extent to which we are prepared to be changed as opposed to bringing others in so we look more multicultural.

Paula Cole Jones will be invited to again work with the RECC in April 2009.

Committee members are looking into an experience on the impact of gentrification in Providence RI for our A/O-A/R experience for October 2009.

**Candidate Awards** – Nathan Ryan was awarded Credentialed Religious Educator status.

**Credentialing Process**

Before the RECC Meeting began, the RECC sponsored a luncheon for all LREDA members still at the LREDA Fall Conference. RECC members sat at each table and entertained comments and concerns about perceived stumbling blocks to entering and completing the credentialing program.

The committee's process for dealing with a portfolio about which the RE Credentialing Program Director has concerns was discussed; the Director involves a reader to assess a portfolio which seems weak. This process prevents a candidate from appearing for an interview prematurely, which saves both time and money.

Two letters critiquing the RE Credentialing Program were read and discussed. Concerns were raised about the program perhaps not being a good fit for candidates from larger congregations where the model of Lifespan Religious Education living in one person may not be realistic.

### **Future Meetings**

April 27 – 30, 2009 in Boston, at the Eliot & Pickett House. Some sleeping rooms will be at the John Jeffries House near Charles Station.

October 26 – 29, 2009, in Providence, RI, at the Renaissance Providence Hotel. Lunch will be offered for LREDA at noon on Monday October 26. Our meeting will begin at 2pm.

### **Mentor's Role**

The RECC Chair recently attended part of a training session for mentors, where she talked particularly about the Overview piece of the portfolio.

Several RECC members attended a breakfast with LREDA Committee on Mentoring representatives, which was an opportunity to brainstorm about how mentors encourage and challenge candidates and hold them accountable. A mentor job description will be written to clarify the mentor's role.

### **Ministry To and With Youth**

RECC members conducted an audit of the credentialing program's documents and interview process through a youth ministry lens. Books on the reading list that deal with youth ministry will be flagged; youth ministry will be added as a supplemental competency; the Recommendation form will specify that a youth is a possibility, for example a YAC chair; the preferred pedagogy statement will add language about specifying one's preferred pedagogy when working with youth; interview questions relating to youth and young adults will be created.

### **Publicity**

**GA Workshop: *Our Teaching Elders*** – This workshop will discuss the importance of congregational support for Religious Educators as they pursue the deepening of their call. Leaders: Beth Williams and Connie Goodbread.

**Young Adult Issues** – Interviewing a young adult candidate raised questions within the committee about whether the credentialing process is geared toward people who are older and raised an awareness that we have more to learn about young adults as more of them come through the program.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4pm on October 30, 2008.