

## REPORT OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE

2009-2010

### VISION:

The vision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee (RECC) 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
- Systematically re-evaluate the credentialing program when necessary
- Affirming an anti-racist/anti-oppressive/multicultural 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.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The committee interviewed 5 candidates this year. Credentials awarded: 2 Master Level, 3 Credentialed Level and 2 Associate Level Credentials (this level does not need a committee interview).
- Survived the new format of one face to face meeting a year with all other business conducted by phone or electronically.
- Credentialed level as well as Master level credentialed educators are now recognized at the Service of the Living Tradition
- A lot of positive feedback about the re-visioned program came from LREDA and religious educators
- Aspects of the program were fine tuned such as in the area of the reading/resource list and interview questions.
- RECC will share a booth with LREDA at GA this year.

- Beth Williams and Jan Devor met with the LREDA mentors at the LREDA Fall Conference to be sure that the LREDA mentors understood the program changes.
- We welcomed 2 new committee members: Rev. Linda Owens Peebles as the MRE on the committee and Donna Harrison as the UUA Board Representative. Kathryn Warrior was reinstated for another term on the committee. The committee is waiting for a minister to be appointed to the committee.

#### APPLYING AN ANTIRACIST/ANITOPPRESSION/MULTICULTURAL LENS TO OUR WORK:

We continue to review each in person meeting using an AR/AO/MC lens. As a committee we also read *GROWING UP WHITE* and one of the members lead us in a discussion of that book.

**CONCERN:** The Religious Education Credentialing Program needs to be supported by the UUA by communicating about the program to congregations and helping to create a demand for this credential. The program itself is well formed and the committee is operating well, but the information about this program is not understood or known by far too many congregations. Churches that are seeking a new religious educator may not even know of the program so they lose the ability to seek out and hire a credentialed religious educator. Congregations that currently have a religious professional need to know the benefits to the congregation of supporting their religious educator's involvement in the Credentialing program. LREDA is promoting and recognizing the religious educators involved in the credentialing program but right now there is a serious lack of congregational knowledge and support. Having professional religious educators is important for the growth of congregations, and this denomination as well as the collegiality among ministers and DRES. We urge the UUA to support RE Credentialing at this crucial time in the program's life.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Jan Devor, chair, Russ Araujo, Kathryn Warrior, and Steve Lynn as lay member representatives, Linda Owens Peebles as MRE, Tandi Scheffler as the LREDA representative and Donna Harrison as the UUA Board liaison. We are still in need of a minister on the committee.