

## **UUWF General Assembly Report**

### **May 2002**

Well, it is that time of year again when you have the opportunity to catch up with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation . . . time to sum up our work since last we met in Cleveland for General Assembly and UUWF's 2001 Triennial membership meeting.

At our Triennial meeting we added six new board members to our returning six members. With the tragedy of September 11, 2001, our inaugural meeting was delayed until late October 2002, when we met in St. Louis, MO. As usual, a great deal of time was devoted to programming for GA and routine administrative functions. We met again in February 2002 in Tulsa, OK, where the All Souls Church of Tulsa was most welcoming and we accomplished a great deal of work. We have engaged the services of a consultant, the Rev. Charlotte Cowtan, who is helping us consider where we will focus our energies and resources.

Our major news of the year was the sale of the North Oxford Massachusetts property. It became clear three years ago that for all concerned it would be best for us to divest ourselves of the property so that the Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc., could do what it does so well and the UUWF could move on to the work that we do best. In December 2001 the sale was completed. We are in the process of examining our options regarding this money and how best to continue to honor Clara Barton.

Again, this year the UUWF through our Lanning Fund contributed \$7,400, an increase of \$1,200 from 2001, to the widows of Transylvanian ministers. As with last year, this money is greatly appreciated and sorely needed for these women, who have sacrificed much for Unitarianism. Along this same line the board is exploring ways in which we might help, financially and more substantively, fledgling women's groups internationally and locally.

The Ministry to Women Award will be given this year to Saira Shah, a CNN journalist, for her documentary "Inside Afghanistan: Beneath the Veil," an examination of women living under the Taliban regime. We are excited and honored to be able to pay tribute to such a daring and courageous woman.

At GA this year, with the financial assistance of the Margaret Fuller Awards Committee, we will be reprising our highly regarded Triennial program, "Making Waves: Feminist Voices Speak." We will be videotaping this program and developing a bibliography and discussion program for use by groups throughout the denomination.

We are beginning exploratory discussions with the UUA's Washington Office regarding the establishment of an internship dedicated to working on women's issues. The discussions revolve around examining all of the requirements needed to support an intern and how best to accommodate the needs of the Washington Office and of the UUWF.

Many of our members have let us know how pleased they have been with the revamped newsletter, *the Communicator*. The board made a strong commitment to insuring that the newsletter was timely, useful and attractive. It is our belief that we have accomplished this goal. In addition, we are working to update our website so that one click will get you all of the information you need about the UUWF.

On a more administrative note the board is investigating a variety of ways to do our business better. The Programming Working Group is working hard to broaden the manner in which we accomplish GA programming. Stop by the GA booth to see what we have been doing. They are putting a plan together that will help us calendar our programming at GA and Triennial in two and three year blocks.

The Executive Committee, with significant input from our Executive Administrator, has overseen the renovation of our financial reporting systems. Continuing in that mode, we have renovated the office space with new carpeting, furniture and computers. Maybe most importantly, with the help of one of the UUA compensation consultants, the board has voted to commit to being a fair compensation organization and we are on the way.

All in all it has been a very busy year. Service on this board is an honor and pleasure.

In faith,  
Linda A. McAffrey  
UUWF President