

Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
25 Beacon Street • Boston, MA 02108
617-948-4692 • uuwf@uaa.org • www.uaa.org/UUWF/

General Assembly Report
May 2005

It has been a year of much hard work with very gratifying results. A small group of determined women have not stopped running with the blueprint we were given last June to accomplish a “radical transformation” of our organization. A downsized board and streamlined operations were our tools, with the addition of a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. You can see first hand, the results of our new look, or “brand identity,” by visiting our booth and by talking with our members - look for the UUWF ribbons on our badges!

As a result of our increased fund raising capability, I am pleased to announce UUWF's contribution of \$4,000 to the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice project, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom. This award is independent of our new grants program's process, although in the spirit of our mission: “advancing equity and justice for women and girls.” \$15,000 has been earmarked for the first cycle of the UUWF Grants Program and grant applications are available at our booth or through our office.

“I will cherish this award particularly because it brings this issue to the fore at a very crucial time,” said Sarah Weddington, recipient of this year's Ministry to Women Award, which honors her as the lawyer who championed the Roe v Wade case. Also receiving an award are a group of remarkable women from the Alliance of the First Unitarian Church in Dallas, who signed an amicus curiae brief in 1970, becoming the third party to the class action lawsuit. Some of them were instrumental in convincing Sarah to help them strike down the antiquated Texas abortion laws. We will celebrate all these women at a very special party Sunday night at Etta's Place. Come join us!

Sadly, but with much pride, we say farewell to our first UUWF Clara Barton Intern for Women's Issues in the UUA's Washington office, Kierstin Homblette, and we look forward to spending time with her successor. Those of you who attended the 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington had an opportunity to witness first-hand Kierstin's excellent work – the whole organization of Unitarian Universalist presence and participation at the march. That is just one of the kudos she has earned for her accomplishments. In the permanent support of that internship, we proudly announced the completion of our fundraising goal of \$400,000, this past December. Donations from the three interns put us over our goal – a wonderful holiday gift!

Where are we going? Our next chapter will see us dramatically increasing our grant-making capability. We will be closer to our goal of becoming a member/donor organization and will have increased our fund raising capability dramatically. To achieve this, we need significant member power, both volunteer staff and donors. When I spoke recently with a local group, one woman said, “We need to put our money where our values are.” Why don't you join us? WE NEED YOU!

In faith,

Nancy W. Van Dyke

Nancy W. Van Dyke, President