



Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

April 2010

Well, I don't know about the rest of you but, after the wettest March in Massachusetts history, I'm about ready to "hang it up to dry." Speaking of, this is actually my very last report to the UUA Board as UU Women's Federation president. I have been honored to be a member of the UUWF board for almost six years now, my two terms reaching completion at the end of this year's General Assembly.

When I first agreed to be president, I couldn't even imagine that fact, never mind the position coming to an end – and with me and the Federation still in one piece! Actually, I am so proud of the accomplishments of the many women who have served as UUWF board members over the past six years: Nancy Van Dyke, Arlene Johnson, Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Barbara Prairie, Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Mary Mercier, Luz Bravo-Gleicher and Rev. Marti Keller. I will speak further about Marti at the conclusion of my remarks.

Since my last report to you, our board met in Boston and discussed just what success would look like for our new UUWF leadership. We are both aware of 120 years of history, honoring all the women who have led and served, and we look to a future of new ideas that will bring this UUA associate organization to a new level. We are embracing new technology to assist us with regular, strategic communication with both our own membership and with the wider community. This same technology will also make fundraising more effective and targeted. We are already planning a greater presence in social marketing arenas with the initiation of a new UUWF Facebook page in order to attract more "Fans," with regularly refreshed postings both on Facebook and to Yahoo groups (including one for congregational women's groups), and for all the possibilities that blogging might provide. This will create great opportunities for us to share the exciting things we are doing on behalf of women and girls.

The UUWF board fully realizes all that new technology affords but also values the more personal, one-on-one promotion of our work. We will encourage this effort by recruiting and supporting congregational UUWF Ambassadors who will be available at local, district or other UU gatherings, using our "UUWF in a Box" as a promotional tool. With a geographically diverse board and three funding panels, we plan to take advantage of the many skills these talented women offer. And, speaking of diversity, it will continue to be our goal to recruit active, connected UU women who reflect our association's commitment to racial, ethnic, age and sexual orientation diversity.

The UUWF has three incredible funding programs – Equity and Justice, Margaret Fuller, and Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley. We will do a better job of disseminating the good news about our funded work by including website links to the “products” of our grants (resources linkage) and more online reports about programs and projects upon completion. We continue to equalize funding of our Margaret Fuller Grants Program for Religious Feminisms, bringing it in line with our Equity and Justice grants, and we want to increase awareness and support for our Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley grants to women who are entering professional UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.

And, finally, “what would success look like,” includes a financial portfolio that weathered reversals and plateaus resulting from the recession. This will be accomplished by working with our financial advisors to insure a prudent and forward-looking portfolio.

I know that we are all looking forward to General Assembly in Minneapolis, so I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to share all the UUWF’s exciting events by attaching our schedule to this report.

As I commenced my remarks, I said this is my last report to you. But I am not the only woman leaving the UUWF Board. Catherine Onyemelukwe, our Vice President/Development, just resigned due to her new position as president of the UU United Nations board, and Luz Bravo-Gleicher has completed her service as Vice President/Funding Programs. I am extremely grateful to both and know that they continue their support and service to the denomination.

I am so pleased to introduce you to the new UUWF Board of Directors: Kirstie Lewis of Bellevue, WA, has accepted our invitation to be Vice President/Communications, and Terry Davis, Atlanta, GA, as Vice President/Development. We expect soon to fill our one remaining position – Vice President/Funding Programs. And the special good news: our new UUWF President is Rev. Marti Keller, minister on staff at the UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA (I have attached her bio so you can more fully appreciate my excitement). As I have said to others on many occasions, I truly believe Marti will bring the Women’s Federation to a new level of vitality, advancing our mission in ways I can only imagine.

Please know how much I appreciate all the good work that you do. It has been my pleasure to attend your board meetings as an observer for the last three years and I will continue to be of service and support where I can.

All my best,



Linda Lu Burciaga, President



Outgoing UUWF President Linda Lu Burciaga (left) with her successor, Rev. Marti Keller.

Rev. Marti Keller is a minister on staff at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA) focusing on social justice, denominational work, small group ministry, pastoral care, lay ministry and adult education. She also preaches regularly, conducts rites of passage, including weddings and memorials, and serves on the Executive Team. She has been both a parish and community minister, working with congregations in the Mid-South for the past decade. She served as the minister of the Georgia Mountains UU Church in Dahlonega for seven years, and was the co-consulting minister in Jackson, MS, for three years. Concurrently, she worked with Decatur Cooperative Ministry, an interfaith group focusing on poverty and homelessness, formerly as manager of the Family House transitional housing program, and as the facilitator of the women support groups.

She also served for two years as a consulting minister with the Justworks program of the UU Service Committee as minister in residence and chaplain for the annual Civil Rights Journey and Workcamp.

Prior to her ordination as a minister, she worked with several non-profit social change organizations, including 12 years as a director of public affairs, community and government relations for Planned Parenthood in California, executive director of Action Alliance for Children, a multi-cultural education and advocacy organization; and executive director for Georgians for Children. She was also the first public policy coordinator for the Georgia Rural-Urban Summit.

For more than 20 years, she worked as an arts and cultural critic and columnist for daily, weekly and monthly publications in the San Francisco Bay Area. During that time, she was the President of the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle.

As virtually a lifelong UU, her lay experience includes serving on religious education and social action committees for several congregations; teaching religious education; being a denominational representative and General Assembly delegate, and being selected as one of the original lay ministers for UUCA.

As an ordained and fellowshipped Unitarian Universalist minister since 1999, Rev. Keller has been a frequent speaker and faculty member for conferences and annual assemblies in the Mid-South District, including workshops on membership, multi-cultural worship and social justice as a spiritual practice. She has served on the TEACH committee, the religious education committee and the Board of Trustees as well. In addition, she was the continuing education coordinator for the Southeast UU ministers association for four years, is chair of the Nominating Committee and was secretary for the UU Clergy of Metro Atlanta (UUCMA) cluster.

Nationally, she was the chair of the Margaret Fuller Awards Committee for Religious Feminisms for the UU Women's Federation, is currently the Vice President/Communications ,and President- Elect.

She served on the Board and now serves on the nominating committee of the UU Small Group Ministries Network (SGM) , and has facilitated trainings on small groups within congregations at the local, district, and national level, including the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) and the UUA General Assembly.

She is the president of the Unitarian Universalists for Jewish Awareness, finishing a three year term in June 2010, but remaining on the Board and on the planning committee for a national UUJA retreat in Atlanta, GA. in February 2011.

She received her Masters in Divinity magna cum laude from Candler School of Theology in 1999, and her undergraduate degree in journalism (from the University of California at Berkeley.) She also did graduate work in theater arts, focusing on children's literature and creative dramatics.

She lives in Decatur Georgia with her husband, Richard, a health care reporter and editor, and their three dogs. Their three grown children were raised UU. Her interests include ethnic art and culture, singing, and avid film-going. She is also a published poet with a new chapbook: Prickly Pear (Farm House Press, 2009)

UU Women's Federation at General Assembly 2010

On Thursday, June 24

MEN, WOMEN, AND MARGARET FULLER

A solo dramatic presentation by author/actress Laurie James

Celebrate Fuller's 200th birthday by witnessing this passionate portrayal of her life and work.

2:45 p.m. – Minneapolis Convention Center – 200 ABIJ

NO SILENT WITNESS: A WEB OF EMPOWERING CONVERSATION

With Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker, author of "Prophetic Sisterhood" and "No Silent Witness"

Learn how NoSilentWitness.org helps empower women as agents of feminist transformation.

1 p.m. – Minneapolis Convention Center – M100 GH

FUNDING FOR UU WOMEN'S WORK

With Luz Bravo-Gleicher and UUWF grant recipients.

Find out how the UUWF's funding programs can help with 1) social justice projects directly affecting women and girls; 2) work focusing on UU religious feminisms; and 3) general support of aspirants/candidates for the UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.

9 a.m. – Minneapolis Convention Center – M100 GH

Also on Thursday: UUWF will present its **Ministry to Women Award** to Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker at a tea beginning at 4 p.m. in the Hilton Hotel. Space is limited at this private event – if you are interested in attending, contact Ellen Spencer in the UUWF Office by June 1.

On Saturday, June 26

WOMEN – IDENTIFY BASED GROUP OR HALF THE WORLD?

With the UUWF Board

Come and explore this fascinating topic in small group discussion.

4 p.m. – Hilton Marquette I