

171113 UUA Co-Moderator Report

It continues to be an honor to serve as co-moderators and we offer this report as a summary of what we have been doing. Since our last report, we have participated in many meetings, beginning with a fantastic October Board retreat. As co-moderators we continue to connect with one another at least twice a week by video/phone and exchange multiple texts throughout the week. We meet with the UUA Administration bimonthly, where we exchange information, opinions, and ideas.

Over the course of the past month we have (individually or together) met with the co-chairs of the Moderator Search Committee, the GA Planning Committee, Vice-Moderator and the UUA Administration (our bi-monthly meeting), The Commission on Institutional Change, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the January Board meeting linkage planning team, as well as the committees, working groups, organizations and constituencies to which we are liaisons.

Through Zoom we gave an interview on the VUU and attended significant parts of the District Presidents' Association/Regional Leaders' Group (DPA/RLG) annual meeting. Both were well received. At the DPA/RLG meeting we listened deeply as leaders shared their joys and struggles around regionalization. We invited the gathered group to partner with us (the board) as we engage in reviewing how we go about the "business" of supporting our faith and making changes to move us away from a White Supremacist culture.

October 2017 Board Meeting

This was our first in person board meeting of the year and was also the first face to face meeting with our new President, Co-moderators, and two new board members Manish Mishra and youth observer, Tanner Linden. The October Board meeting has historically been a retreat and orientation for the board and this year was no different. We decided to conduct this year's orientation face to face rather than over a webinar because we felt that all of the board needed to ground together. In our closed session we built relationships, worshiped together, collectively analyzed and understood the responsibilities and roles of Board members, as well as began the work of creating group agreements and evaluating our Board performance. We spent the morning of our closed session on Friday working with the Commission on Institutional Change reviewing some of our decisions from the previous year by using a process of discernment that invited us to name where we fell short in relationship to decision making, trust, communication and courageous leadership. We used those understandings to craft what decision making and leadership would be like if it credited, counted, made clear and celebrated everyone, especially groups that are often on the margins within the UUA (youth, people of color, non-minister religious professionals, trans folks, etc.), and built them into our group agreements.

During the open portion of our meeting we made a point to include everyone in the room, which meant that instead of having traditional observers sitting in the back of the room, we invited our fellow Unitarian Universalists to either join us in conversations at the table, in small groups or to offer their own reflections as to what is needed as a group, intentionally including their thoughts in our decision making. This is a practice that we will continue at each of our in person meetings,

so if you are coming to the board meeting be ready to check in, check out and participate! All of us are needed to transform and make real the promise of our faith.

The remaining time in open session was spent having a conversation about our strategy work in the upcoming year, asking everyone to think about what they are the most excited about, what has them nervous, how the work goes together, and how we can engage congregations, communities and UUs that feel left out or pushed out. Moving forward we have work to do on our Bylaws both generally and Article II; Section Two Governance Policies, Reimagining Covenant Task Force, General Conference as well as Mission, Vision and Ends Revisions. All of this is moving alongside the Commission on Institutional Change's process, so please engage in this necessary work ahead of us.

Moderator Search Committee

We have been briefed by the Moderator Search Committee that they feel they have had a slow start to their work and may come to the board with a request to extend the deadline by which they are to submit nominations for Moderator for the 2019 election. In our preliminary conversations we have agreed that it is possible for the board to extend the internal deadline originally set for the search.

Commission on Institutional Change

The CIC has shared that they continue to bump up against resistance from some of the people with whom they are attempting to interview. As discussed at our October board meeting, this sometimes is grounded in concerns around legal obligations regarding discussing employment situations and sometimes not. We have been working with the administration and legal council to help clarify with the Commission and prospective interviewees, with the hopes that everyone will eventually speak with the CIC.

Upcoming Meetings

Our upcoming Zoom meeting is on Monday November 13th and the next face to face meeting will be from January 19-21st in and around Knoxville, TN.

Faithfully submitted,
Co-Moderators Elandria Williams and Barb Greve