

# COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

## ANNUAL REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

The Commission will complete our study of class/classism in time for for GA 2017. There were many challenges in reconstituting ourselves as a working group following the developments in 2015 when proposed changes to the composition and very existence of the Commission meant understandable turmoil and flux. The Commission which was reaffirmed at GA 2015 experienced significant transitional issues which we believe have served the current Commission as strengtheners, enabling us to come together as a viable team. We stand on the shoulders of all the Commissions who have come before us, but in particular we see our work on class and classism as a natural outgrowth of the valuable study of recent Commissions on Appraisal on membership, governance and polity, and theological diversity.

The transitions over the last year and a half included the resignations of some Commissioners and the ends of terms for others. Since GA 2015 we have brought our numbers up from 2 to the current 6, and can report that this size seems both efficient for the work and a good use of resources. At this time we are therefore recommending that no new Commissioners be nominated, and that the issue be put before the General Assembly in 2017.

During our two face to face meetings since GA 2015 and monthly conference calls, COA has structured the completion of the project on class and classism and begun a significant re-write and supplementation of the preliminary report presented at GA 2015.

At our face to face meeting in Philadelphia in March we had the opportunity to meet with Finding Our Way Home, the group of Unitarian Universalist professionals and seminarians who are people of color. We received valuable feedback from the members of FOWH who were generous with their time and insights. Their assistance will prove to have an invaluable influence on the Commission's study of class and classism. The Commission is pursuing and is engaged in dialogue with voices from all classes to aid us in this work. We are focusing on how class and classism affect all of us differently, especially in light of the intersecting oppressions of race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, and others.

We look forward to GA 2017 when the report "A Report on Class in the Unitarian Universalists Association" is presented to the assembly. It is our fervent hope that this study will help bring the UUA closer to the beloved community to which we aspire.

Respectfully Submitted,

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