

October 2016

Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

Congregational and other visits

July 20-22	Madison, WI	UUMN Conference
September 11-17	Boston, MA	GAMAP, GAPC meetings
September 18	Brunswick, GA	Rev. Jane Page installation
October 1-3	Lansing, MI	Governance Workshop, Building Dedication

Narrative

While my travel schedule has been light since GA in Columbus, I have been busy having conversations with stakeholders over the summer that have focused on the Berry Street Essay, Responsive Resolution, Section II bylaw amendments, debate and voting processes, GA scholarship program, and GA2017 in New Orleans.

Berry Street Essay - I met with the Rev. Gail Seavey, senior minister of First Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashville and featured speaker at the Berry Street Essay, along with the Boundaries Advisory Group to discuss responses and reactions to her essay of Clergy Sexual Misconduct. Denise Rimes, Vice Moderator will report on these discussions in the Boundary Working Group report.

Responsive Resolution - I met with the Youth sponsors of the Responsive Resolution to gain insights to their hopes and dreams as the Board of Trustees considers its response to the resolution. They deferred to people of color to provide specific recommendations. There were also consultations with the leadership of Black Lives Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith and Leslie MacFadyen will represent BLUU at our October board meeting.

Bylaw Amendments - Other conversations have been with the Rev. LoraKim Joyner, principle organizer of the initiative to amend Article II bylaw C-2.1. Principles. That initiative seeks to change the first principle from "...inherent worth and dignity of every person" to every *being*. We have had multiple conversations on process, rules, and procedure. It appears the initiative has the support of at least 15 congregations and will be eligible to be placed on the GA Tentative Agenda once the sponsoring congregations have certified in February 2017.

I have also had an inquiry from an organizer of a proposed initiative to amend Article II bylaw C-2.1. Principles, to change the sources "...Jewish and Christian teachings" to include Muslim teachings. It is not clear whether this might come before the General Assembly in 2017 or 2018.

Given the interest to amend Article II, Section 2 bylaws from several organizers, it might be appropriate for the Board to consider asking the Commission on Appraisal (COA) to study these initiatives and others. The process is detailed in Article XV, Section C-15.1. (c)(1) Amendment of Bylaws, Section II. The COA will be making its current report on Class at GA2017 and should be available to begin a new study.

Debate and Voting Processes - I have hosted meetings with the Executive Committee of UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UJME) and a cluster representing Board Presidents of Large Congregations. Both wanted to express support for bylaw changes that would reduce dependence on debating under Roberts Rules of Order as delegates discern and embrace social justice and other actions. A document from UJME is attached as an addendum, and a report is anticipated in the coming months from the large congregations' presidents' group. I will forward that document when received.

GA Delegate Scholarship Pilot - The board-sponsored scholarship program had 87 applicants, all received grants totaling \$27,985. Additionally, the cost of registration was absorbed in the GA budget. While the program was intended to incent congregations to financially support these delegates, only 19 or 22 percent had any congregational endorsement, 4 or 4.6 percent had specific financial pledges, and 5 or 5.7 percent covered transportation costs.

The objective of the scholarship program was to encourage people of color, youth, young adults, and economically fragile to be named

delegates from congregations. Of the 87 recipients, 31 or 35.6 percent were people of color, 30 or 34.5 percent were non-cisgender/straight, 15 or 17.2 percent were youth, and (48 were either non-white, non-cisgender/straight, or both); 15 were youth and 41 or 47.1 percent were young adults. I did not receive data on how the recipients identified their economic status.

A post-GA survey to all 87 recipients received 30 responses or a response rate of 34.5 percent. Some data points of the 30 who responded:

- 72.4 percent identified as financially insecure
- 62.1 percent identified as a young adult
- 48.3 percent identified as in LGBTQ community
- 27.6 percent identified as a person of color
- 6.9 percent identified as a youth
- 56.7 percent learned of the program via the UUA website
- 16.7 percent learned of the program via called or elected congregational leadership
- 50.0 percent asked to be a delegate
- 50.0 percent received no financial assistance from their congregation
- General Sessions reports and awards were evaluated as the element of GA that increased their understanding and appreciation for Unitarian Universalism

I think that the results of the scholarship program are mixed. I recommend that the Inclusion and Empowerment Working Group study the data and make a recommendation to the board at our January meeting.

GAPC report – Denise Rimes, Vice Moderator, and I have been attending meetings with stakeholders for New Orleans GA 2017 for the past 18 months to discuss planning for this justice centered GA. We also attended GAMAP, Grid, and GAPC meetings as noted in the travel section of this report. More information is detailed in the Vice Moderator’s Report.

Addendum

Report to UUA on UUJME’s concerns regarding consideration of its Business Resolution at GA 2016 copy.pdf

Input on UUA General Assembly Processes for Consideration of Resolutions (Dana) copy.pdf

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Scholarship Survey 100816.pdf