

Memorandum

To: UUA Board of Trustees
Subject: President's Report
From: Peter Morales
Date: October 5, 2015



This report will highlights topics that are not covered in other parts of the agenda or in other reports.

A personal note

As you know, I had a knee replacement last month. My mobility has been severely restricted both prior to and in the first weeks of following surgery. I have experienced both the possibilities and the limitations of our enhanced electronic communications. While I have been able to attend virtually all critical meetings via teleconference, I am keenly aware of the lack of physical presence and the absence of chance encounters.

The staff at the UUA has performed heroically during this period, particularly my closest associates on the Leadership Council and the Office of the President.

Multi Faith outreach

As you may recall, last May we hosted a gathering of liberal religious leaders (United Church of Christ, Union for Reform Judaism, Islamic Circle of North America, Religions for Peace USA and United Religions Initiative) to explore collaboration on outreach to the large number of religiously unaffiliated. A follow up meeting was held last month. I am pleased to say that, if anything, the enthusiasm for collaboration has increased. In addition, interfaith cooperation is the theme of next summer's General Assembly.

Outreach by religious progressives to the unaffiliated is a classic “wicked problem”—a problem for which there is no obvious correct solution and a problem that can only be addressed by trying to work on it. To further our efforts, I have brought on the Rev. Brock Leach to coordinate our design work. Brock has worked closely with the UUSC in the UUA - UUSC College of Social Justice design and is part of the core team leading the entrepreneurial ministry training program. We are exploring collaboration with Auburn Seminary in New York. Our hopes are to have a gathering of key people to begin initial work aimed at selecting a handful of initiatives to explore on a very small scale.

This is exciting work with huge long term implications for the UUA and liberal religion.

General Assembly 2016

There have been several developments since last month’s meeting of the GAMAP group and the development of the grid by the GA Planning Committee. First, the public witness event has been moved from Thursday morning to Thursday afternoon. This should allow us to have a larger and more newsworthy event. Planning is still in the early stages, but the goal is multi faith public witness focused on racial injustice.

Also, I am pleased to announce that former UUA president Bill Sinkford will preach at the Service of the Living Tradition. The Sunday morning preacher will be Nancy McDonald Ladd.

