

GA Script 2.1
Board Report
Welcoming New Congregations, Merged, Covenanting
Communities, MultiSite Partnerships
6/12/15
Tandi Rogers

Tandi lines people up to go on Stage in this order: James Snell, Donna Harrison, Tandi Rogers, Annie Gonzalez-Milliken, Terasa Cooley, Scott Tayler, Carey McDonald, group of new congregations, new merged congregation, group of Covenanting Communities, group of Multi-Site partnership.

Donna and UUA Staff stand between podium and groups groups behind.

James Snell at podium.

As groups come on stage [slide #1] is up.

(James) At GA in Providence, the Board reported that we had formed a collaborative emerging congregations working group with the UUA staff. We stated that our goal was to more quickly bring some 50 emerging congregations and communities the UUA Staff had identified into relationship with our Association, and on a path to membership.

The UUA's work since Providence to foster growth and new relationships with the emerging UU congregations and communities underscores how important it is to intentionally build relationships. In pursuit of the goal of this work, the

UUA reached out to these emerging groups. The revolutionary question they asked these communities was:

"How do you covenant?"

This question was asked because an earlier survey had revealed that more of the emerging congregations and communities had Facebook pages than had a Covenant.

This work, these conversations the staff held with Emerging UU communities, was significant and productive. The UUA staff reported to the Board at our March meeting in Birmingham that these deep conversations have helped 5 of the emerging communities seek membership in the UUA at this GA. Another dozen of these communities are moving into an intentional relationship with us, and we are recognizing them here as "Covenanting Communities."

So, how do We expand our initiatives to foster the growth of our UU Faith community? First each of you has the power to expand our faith. The UUA is You: Our member congregations and communities. You might do many things. Importantly, if you are part of a new community looking for a way to connect to Unitarian Universalism, know that we want to be in relationship with you. Find out if there are UU groups

meeting in your community and support them. Add new forms of worship that are more welcoming to the diversity you see in your visitors. Create services that reach out to Youth and Young Adults in your communities. Partner with other congregations in your area to make your collective resources available to all congregations. Pursue a new mission outside your walls - perhaps even start a satellite sanctuary - in an underserved area of your community.

Secondly the UUA staff, supported by your APF contributions, is here to coach, connect and co-learn with you.

Our [slide #2] UUA staff under has created a comprehensive system of support for all Emerging Ministries. I see this support as a highway, with many lanes, helping you map out where you want to go and giving you the tools to get there. And so today, we not only celebrate all of these new communities, but also a new commitment on behalf of your UUA to support new ways of being and accompanying UU religious communities in all the forms those take.

I would now like to introduce your Vice Moderator, Donna Harrison, who will help us welcome our new member

congregations. [slide #3]

(Donna) At every General Assembly, we welcome new congregations into our Association of Congregations. This is a time of real joy for all of us. According to our Bylaws, one of the primary purposes of our Association is to organize new congregations. The work that Board and the staff are doing to create energy and momentum around emerging congregations and covenanted communities speaks directly to this call in our founding documents.

This year, as James mentioned, we are welcoming 5 brand new congregations into our Association. This is as many as we welcomed over the last three years, combined. I know that you share my hope that this is the beginning of an upward trajectory! As I introduce the congregations, will their representatives please come forward to be welcomed by Moderator Key and President **Morales**.

[slide #4] All Souls in Miami, **Florida**

[slide #5] Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in
Okoboji, Iowa

[slide #6] Open Door Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in
Owensboro, Kentucky

[slide #7] Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in St.
Croix Falls, Wisconsin

[slide #8] Unitarian Universalist Bay de Noc Fellowship in
Escanaba, Michigan

[slide #9] **(Donna) Merged Congregations**

We also have a newly formed congregation that has come
about as the result of two congregations coming together.

[slide #10] The Paint Branch Unitarian Universalists of Rochester, Michigan and the Emerson Unitarian Universalists of Troy, Michigan have talked and researched and reached the conclusion that they are better together, merged and now we welcome this new, resulting congregation, Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Troy, Michigan.

[slide #11] **(James):** And now, please welcome your UUA staff Emerging Congregations team - Tandi Rogers & Annie Gonzalez-Milliken, The Emerging Ministries Support Coordinators, along with Terasa Cooley, Program & Strategies Officer who oversees all this goodness, Carey McDonald, Director of Outreach, who will help introduce the Covenanting Communities, and Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life who will introduce multisite partnerships. [Those named step up to the podium.]

(Tandi) Covenanting Communities. As I call their name, please send your prayers and wishes to these pioneering

communities. [turning to leaders on stage] Are you ready to receive the good will of your siblings in faith to which you now officially belong, and them to **you?**

[slide #12] (Tandi) Buffalo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
(Buffalo, **Minnesota**)

[slide #13] (Carey) Covenant of Unitarian Universalist
Pagans (virtual & multiple **locations**)

[slide #14] (Tandi) Lucy Stone Cooperative (Roxbury, **MA**)

[slide #15] (Carey) Methow Valley Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship (Twisp, **WA**)

[slide #16] (Tandi) North Kitsap Unitarians (Poulsbo, **WA**)

[slide #17] (Carey) Peninsula Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship (Port Orchard, WA)

[slide #18] (Tandi) Prairie Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
(Hutchinson, KS)

[slide #19] (Carey) Sacred Fire Community (Carrboro, North
Carolina, growing in locations)

[slide #20] (Tandi) Sacred Path, A Unitarian Universalist
Church (Indianapolis, Indiana)

[slide #21] (Carey) The Welcome Table (Turley, Oklahoma)

[slide #22] (Tandi) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Salina,
Kansas)

[slide #23]. (Carey) Unitarian Universalists of Goldendale
(Washington)

[slide #24] (all Scott) MultiSite Partnership

[slide #25] First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque and its
Branch Campuses

First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque (NM)

- Desert Springs UUs (Calsbad, CA)
- Edgewood UUs (NM)
- Socorro Unitarian Universalists (NM)

[slide #26] First UU Church of San Diego and its Branch
Campus

First UU Church of San Diego (CA)

- South Bay Campus (Chula Vista, CA)

[slide #27] The Houston Network, which includes

- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston (TX)
- First UU Church of Houston, Copperfield Campus (TX)
- First UU Church of Houston, Thoreau/Stafford Campus (TX)

[slide #28] Jefferson Unitarian Church (Golden, CO) and its Branch Campus

Jefferson Unitarian Church (Golden, CO)

- Jefferson Unitarian Church Evergreen Campus (Evergreen, CO)

[slide #29] Piedmont-Salisbury Partnership, which includes

- Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church (Charlotte, NC)
- Piedmont UU Church Salisbury Gathering (Salisbury, NC)

[slide #30] Rochester-Canandaigua, Partnership which includes

- First Unitarian Church of Rochester (NY)
- UU Church of Canandaigua (NY)

[slide #31] Rockton-Rockford-McHenry Theme Network includes

- UU Congregation of Rock Valley (IL)
- The UU Church in (Rock Valley, IL)
- Tree of Life UU Congregation (McHenry, IL)

[slide #32] The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg and its branch campuses

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg (PA)

Branches

- Swatara Township (PA)
- Allison Hill Neighborhood (PA)

[slide #33] UUnited: 7-Church Youth Collaborative. which includes

- First Parish Church in Taunton (MA)
- Murray Church in Attleboro (MA)
- First Parish Bridgewater Unitarian Universalist (MA)
- First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro (MA)
- Foxboro Universalist Church (MA)
- First Unitarian Church of New Bedford (MA)
- Unity Church of North Easton (MA)