

## UUA Secretary's Report

January 2107

- 1) Distinguished Service Award: As of January 24<sup>th</sup> we have received one new nomination and a number of support letters. The deadline for nominations is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Debra Gray Boyd has filed to run by petition for a seat on the General Assembly Planning Committee. I have reviewed the petitions submitted and determined that they meet the criteria laid out in the UUA By-laws Article 9.6 b. I have notified Ms. Boyd that her candidacy is approved.
- 3) Election Update: Six Board-sponsored and one on-line forums have been arranged. Thanks to Scott Tayler and the Regional Staff for their cooperation in getting this new initiative in support of the democratic process up and running.

Thanks to the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti and the other members of the Election Campaign Practices Committee for safeguarding the process and addressing candidate's concerns as they arise.

An interim finance report is due on January 31<sup>st</sup>. I will review the reports for any indications or error or confusion and will file them with the Office of the Treasurer.

In fulfillment of a 2011 Board directive to staff to initiate the by-law and administrative changes needed to move toward electronic voting and a 2013 by-law revision authorizing the change the 2017 UUA Presidential election will be conducted electronically. Paper ballots will be available by request but we have planned for most of the votes to be cast on line. In order to clarify and publicize the new procedures staff has prepared both delegate voting instructions and a background piece explaining the changes. Both of these documents are included in the supporting documents for this report.

I want to acknowledge the exemplary work of the staff elections team in operationalizing the Board's electronic voting proposal.