

# COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

## ANNUAL REPORT, 2014

We are announcing that our next topic is *Class*—specifically in the Unitarian Universalist world. We will use *Depth* as one of our primary lenses for this examination. As of this writing we do not have a formal title to announce.

The nine-member Commission on Appraisal began our year with four new members. Integrating them into our Commission, re-visiting our mission, and building a working covenant were our first priorities. Last General Assembly we delivered our report: *Who's in Charge Here: the Complex Relationship of Ministry and Authority*. Our next task was to select a topic to study.

We held three three-day meetings, and five phone meetings lasting about 1 ½ hours. We have sub-groups that also meet via phone. We used part of our time for an Intercultural Conflict Style training and testing exercise. Member, the Rev. Erica Baron is an approved trainer, and she generously donated her time for this session. One meeting was held in Tulsa and we visited the Rev. Ron Robinson and toured his mission, *A Third Place*. One of our members, the Rev. Lucy Bunch, was so inspired by his devotion to ministry that she resigned from the COA so that she could spend more of her time serving the two churches to which she is called. When we visited Dallas we interacted with the cluster members who were also meeting there that weekend.

The rest of our time was spent in discerning our next topic. Work involved writing, discussing, and participating in exercises of discernment. We chose a deep exploration of class and the issues it raises within our beloved faith community. We will be especially looking at how building deep relationships within our congregations might help us move beyond the blocks present in our congregations. We discussed and explored options of how the elements of the report might be presented. We believe that using on-line technology for at least part of the work will make it available to more Unitarian Universalists.

We also voted to recommend changing the nine member commission to a seven member commission. This will require a by-laws change. We will be crafting this change so it can be presented at the next General Assembly.

We have been in communication with the board, mostly through its moderator, Jim Key, and the staff, through Harlan Limpert.

Members of the Commission are: Erica Baron, John Cullinan, Megan Dowdell, Lynne Garner, John Hawkins, Nathan Hollister, Myriam Renaud, and Nana' Kratochvil, chair.

....Nana' Kratochvil