



Spring 2017

Northern New England District pledges up to \$200,000 to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism

Delegates from congregations across the Northern New England District (NNED) voted to give up to \$200,000 from the District's funds to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) (<http://www.blacklivesuu.com/>) at the NNED Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 22. The delegates voted almost unanimously to give \$100,000 directly to BLUU, and to offer up to a \$100,000 match for any donations made by NNED congregations to BLUU over the next two years. Eighty-one delegates from 35 congregations

attended the meeting, representing nearly half of the NNED's 74 member congregations. It was the largest such meeting in recent years, and the energy in the room was high as delegates and guests spoke in favor of the donation. Dr. Royce James, a member of the BLUU organizing collective, was present for the meeting and spoke passionately about the work that BLUU has done thus far and is planning for the future.

NNED Board President Dana Baron was inspired by the pledge made by the Unitarian

Universalist Association's Board of Trustees of \$5.3 million dollars back in October 2016, and initially brought the idea of giving NNED funds to BLUU to the NNED Board's November meeting. After engaging in careful process of conversation and discernment, the Board voted unanimously at its February 2017 meeting to bring the \$200,000 proposal to the Annual Meeting. In addition to the donation of funds, the NNED Board has challenged itself to take further actions to educate themselves and to engage the NNED congregations around issues of race, white supremacy and economic justice.

Inside this issue:

Installations	2
Workshops	2
Around the District	3
General Assembly	3
Chalice Lighter	4
Distinguished Award	5
Database Updates	6
Your Board of Directors	6

Special points of interest:

- BLUUA
- General Assembly
- Chalice Lighter
- Around the District
- Your New BOD



BLACK LIVES of UU





FINDING OUR WAY HOME

Breakfast with a Stranger and a \$300,000 Decision

The dining room is crowded early Saturday morning at our UU New England Regional Assembly in Woburn, MA.

As delighted as I am to be sharing the event with Jane Pen-theny and Bob and Judy Bishop, I am not with them at breakfast. So I head over to a table with a stranger, a black man; and introduce myself. We share a meal and then a pivotal conversation about our faith's struggle with institutional racism.

We share a meal and then a pivotal conversation

His name, he says, is Royce James. Royce tells me he is one of the organizing members of the *Black Lives UU (BLUU)*

Collective. I nearly go through the roof with delight. We deeply need his presence today... although he doesn't yet know it.

This afternoon our NNED (Northern New England District) Board that I serve on will be asking our delegates and congregations to gift up to \$300,000 to Black Lives UU. But we don't have a BLUU member with us to provide background information about this emerging UU organization and its critical significance to the life of our faith at this moment in time.

"Will Royce come to our NNED meeting and be our BLUU resource person?" I ask, as I explain why. "YES! YES!" he says. We are both momentarily

astonished by this chance conversation and the unfolding opportunity.

And so, some 7 hours later, Royce plays a critical role at the Annual Meeting of the NNED. We address racism in our denomination and **we vote nearly unanimously to fund BLUU's work**. With Royce's considerable input, our congregations In Maine, NH, and VT make a historical decision to immediately give \$100,000 from our operating funds to BLUU. Our district will further contribute a \$100,000 match over the next two years for additional donations from our congregations.

Written by NNED Board member
Anne Kinney,
Denominational Affairs Representative
For her congregation's newsletter and is reprinted here with permission

Installations

Spring saw several Installations of Ministers in the NNED-UUA . Congratulations to St. Johnsbury VT for the installation of Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Plymouth NH for the installation of Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Bangor ME for

the installation of Rev. Andrew Moeller and Peterborough NH for the installation of Rev. Diana McLean.

Please email your announcements to
NNEDAdmin@comcast.net

We will place as many as possible on Facebook and send Save the Date emails.



Workshops, Webinars and Training

Workshops, Webinars & Trainings provide opportunities to learn new skills, hone current skills and renew friendships.

There are upcoming Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Trainings

<https://www.uua.org/new-england/workshops-webinars>



Subscribe to the New England Region Newsletter via regional email list for workshop invitations and news. You can unsubscribe anytime.

Take a moment and see what is available. Pass the information to your leaders and members.

Request a workshop
<https://www.uua.org/new-england/workshops-webinars/request-workshop>

New England Region Newsletter is available to you

Around the district



The Board of Directors are so pleased that many of the congregations are submitting their newsletters via email and the post office and we are so pleased to be on your distribution list. There are many exciting things happening in our district.

Many have opened your doors to outside organizations such as, AA, Book Groups, Food Pantries, Music Lessons, fund-

raisers and so many more.

St. Johnsbury VT enjoyed dancing to sacred music from various culture during Sacred Circle Dance, Belfast ME celebrated the progress of their building with refreshments and building tours, Castine ME hosted a Leadership Workshop, Augusta, Rockland, Bangor, Belfast, and Ellsworth all joined in a day of discussions, Keene NH is a collection site for used phones that are donated to domestic violence shelters, Franklin NH is starting Gardening as Spiritual Practice sessions, Auburn ME is planning a refugee experience

simulation for World Refugee Day, South Paris and West Paris Universalist Church are attending services at each others building and several of your doors were open to yard sales and Earth Day events.

Please add the NNED-UUA to your distribution list (NNEDAdmin@comcast.net); we love to read about all that you are doing.

You can check out events on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/>

General Assembly 2017 June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

Planning has begun for General Assembly 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The General Assembly (GA) is the annual business meeting



of the denomination. General Assemblies make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

The business to be transacted is forth in the official agenda.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Future General Assemblies

- June 21-25: **2017**
New Orleans, LA
- June 20-24: **2018**
Kansas City, MO
- June 19-23: **2019**
Spokane, WA



Chalice Lighter Program Needs to Expand

Dear UUs in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont:

This year the Chalice Lighter Program has received grant requests from 10 congregations in Maine and Vermont. The requests from the program total \$52,375. The total funds these 10 congregations hope to raise is well over \$450,000.

The dreams they hope to build up include repairing a leaky roof in an historic church, joining three small congregations in training an intern minister, installing an elevator so the elderly can attend worship and town functions in the church, installing a shower so immigrants could be offered sanctuary in the congregation, and expanding faith

Help us help all of you who have big dreams

formation programs through supporting new religious educators.

Our Chalice Lighter Donors are extremely generous and have been committed for years to helping Unitarian Universalism thrive in northern New England. So far this year, our donors have sent us \$4,940, which is wonderful, but nowhere near enough

to help all ten congregations achieve their goals.

If you are not yet a chalice lighter; someone who pledges to give \$15 or more in response to a Chalice Lighter call 3 times a year (or give it all at once, that's fine too), please consider becoming one. A pledge form is below.

And consider making a congregational gift to the chalice lighter program. Offer one Sunday morning plate, or one month of Sundays; however you do it in your congregation, to the Chalice Lighter Program.

We will make one more call this year. Help us help all of you who have big dreams to fulfill in order to thrive as UU congregations.

Grateful for so many who make this program possible, we are:

Rev. Olivia Holmes, Chair (NH)
Niki Norman (ME)

Chuck Putney (VT)

Questions: Email Olivia at uurevoh@gmail.com.



Chalice Lighter Enrollment Form

Helping more light to shine in Northern New England!

I/We wish to support and foster the growth of Unitarian Universalism. I/We wish to receive notification of the Chalice Lighter calls, and pledge to contribute \$15 or more, three times a year. Please mail this pledge form to NNED-UUA, PO Box 333, New Ipswich, NH 03071.

Please print

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check here if you would prefer to receive future Chalice Lighter Calls by email.

Congregation _____

Thank you for your support of the NNED Chalice Lighter Program!

Distinguished Service Award



For years, even long before he came to northern New England, Roger Comstock has toiled in the world of Unitarian Universalism. He began his journey in the Mid-Atlantic region, where he served for 14 years as District Executive of the former Joseph Priestley District. When he retired from that position, he and his wife, Faith, moved to Yarmouth, Maine, where they soon became active in the First Universalist Church in that town. It wasn't long after when Roger was appointed as District Executive for the former Northeast District, the first layperson to fill that position. When he retired yet again, he was asked to serve on the Task Force for Consolidation of the Northeast and New Hampshire-Vermont Districts, where his knowledge of the intri-

cacies of the Unitarian Universalist Association and how our district system works, was a significant factor in our two districts successfully managing the delicate discussion and plan for bringing two identities together.

Roger also became the last UUA Trustee representing the Northeast District, a term that ended after just one year when the consolidation became a reality. So, Roger retired yet again, and this time he and Faith moved to Vermont, where they had built a new home in Middlebury. And, naturally, they became active in the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, where Roger sings bass in the choir.

But, yet again, Roger was drawn out of retirement when the NNED Nominating Committee prevailed upon him to join the Board of Directors. He did -- hadn't learned how to say "no." On the board, Roger served for three years as the Chief Financial Officer and head trustee of the NNED Endowments. When that was finished, apparently still not knowing about "no," he agreed to serve on the NNED Nominating Committee, a position he will complete at the end

of this coming June. This time he and Faith seem determined that he will retire in fact and not as a matter of theory. We shall see.

Our Northern New England District is healthy and in a good place, today, in no small measure because of the contributions



of Roger over the years he has lived in Maine and Vermont, working on behalf of our congregations. His warmth, good humor, gentle nature and wise counsel have been gifts for us.

At the NNED Annual Meeting in Woburn, MA on April 22, the Board of Directors was honored to bestow upon Roger Comstock, the Award for Distinguished Service, on behalf of all our congregations and members throughout the Northern New England District.

Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar
NNED Board Member

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT - UUA

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LOVE &
LIGHT
FROM THE
MOUNTAINS
TO THE SEA

Your Newly Elected

Northern New England Board of Directors

July 1, 2017– June 30, 2018

President—*Mary Heafy of Jaffrey NH*

Vice President—*Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar of Milford NH*

Financial Officer—*Deb Robinson of Montpelier VT*

Secretary—*Rev. Allison Palm of Nashua NH*

Members at Large

Paul Tierney of New Hampton NH

Anne Kinney of Auburn ME

Rev. Kendra Ford of Exeter NH

Carol Larson of Portland ME

Rev. Barbara Threet of Rutland VT



Did you have elections?

You will receive a telephone call or email from Ann-Marie to update the database that is used by the Board of Directors to reach you with upcoming events, trainings, meetings, newsletters and celebrations.

Your Annual Meeting resulted in new contact information (name, mailing address, email address)

Please email to Ann-Marie (NNEDAdmin@comcast.net) contact information for your Minister, President, Treasurer,



Information Needed

Director of Religious Education, Administrator, Social Action Committee, Welcoming Committee, Denominational Affairs Representative and any other Committee that you feel would like to be included in our records.

MyUUA website is the way to update your information for the whole UUA.

Thank you for your service to the NNED-UUA.. .