

January 2017

Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

Congregational and other visits

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| October 29, 2016 | River Road UU; participated in "Trustee Day" training for six area congregations' boards |
| December 3, 2016 | Met with MFC to observe interview process |
| January 13, 2017 | Met with GAPC regarding both NOLA and KC GAs for 2017 and 2018 |
| January 14, 2017 | Delivered Key Note for the 150 th Anniversary celebration of 5 congregations in Cleveland |
| January 15, 2017 | Preached at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland and met with board |
| January 22, 2017 | Preached at UUs of the Susquehanna (PA) |

Narrative

BLUU - Since our historic October board meeting when the Board approved a commitment of \$5.3 million to Black Lives Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), the staff and Executive Committee of the board have been in discernment on how and when to respond. I asked Christina Rivera as Communications WG convener to work with BLUU representative Leslie MacFadyen to craft a document that reflects the narrative of how this ministry came to fruition and why it is an important step for our movement. Many of us had discussed informally about the possibility of such a grant, how it might be structured, and what entity would be the proper vessel.

I have also been in conversation with Lena Gardner and Royce James of BLUU. They have the BLUU portfolio of researching organizational options and requirements as well as financial management options.

They are requesting that the board and staff slow the process begun in October down. BLUU leadership is highly focused on planning the Convening in March in New Orleans and wishes to wait until after receiving input from those who will participate before considering how they will be organized and receive manage financial resources. For the moment, the UUA financial staff is acting as Fiscal Agent without fee to sign contracts with providers of services in New Orleans, pay bills, etc. I have assured Lena and Royce that the UUA board is fully committed to the \$5.3 guarantee and the details of this new covenantal relationship will come later. BLUU leadership and I have agreed to stay in relationship and communications as organizational and financial plans become clearer. I will keep the board apprised as I have additional information.

Bylaw initiatives – Two groups have satisfied the bylaw requirements to bring forward amendments to Article II, Section c-2.1. One petition seeks a change in line 12 of the Principles, from “inherent worth and dignity of every person to every being”. The second petition seeks a change in line 26 of Sources from “prophetic words of women and men to people. Additionally, there is an initiative that does not currently have the requisite number of congregations supporting it. That proposed bylaw amendment would seek to change line 31 of Sources to add Muslim teachings to the current Jewish and Christian teachings.

Given the two and potentially three initiatives that will come before the delegates over the next several years, I recommend the board identify and charge a committee or commission to study these initiatives and bring forward recommendations to the board for consideration for the GA Agenda for 2018. This committee or commission should be identified and approved at April meeting to be placed on the GA 2017 Agenda.

Operative bylaws with line numbers:

*1776 Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II. A proposal to amend,
1777 repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall
1778 be subject to the following process
1779 (1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a
1780 regular General Assembly for the purpose of determining
1781 whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission
1782 appointed by the Board of Trustees for study. Such a
1783 study shall involve member congregations. A majority
1784 vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to
1785 refer such a proposal to the study commission. Once the*

*1786 study of the proposal is complete, which shall be
1787 completed in no more than two years, the study
1788 commission shall submit to the Board of Trustees for
1789 inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General
1790 Assembly any amendments to Article II that the study
1791 commission recommends. The Board of Trustees shall
1792 also include on the agenda any amendments that it
1793 recommends to the study commission proposal.*

GA 2017 – The Vice Moderator and I have been working with the GA Office on scheduling mini-assemblies and other board-approved workshops and the VM has included those in her report.

The GAPC has recommended a GA registration fee for 2017 of \$360. The fee for 2015 and 2016 was \$350. This increase represents an increase of 2.9 percent, and I recommend the Trustees approve this fee.

GAPC - The Vice Moderator and I participated in the GAPC meeting in Kansas City, January 12-15. The GAPC has recommended holding GA 2020 in Providence, RI. The Vice-Moderator and I participated in that discussion, and she will include in her report as she participated in the full discussion and I for only one day.

January 2018 Board Meeting - We have received an invitation from Rev. Jake Morrill of the Oak Ridge UU Church for the East Tennessee Cluster to host the January 2018 board meeting. Board policy manual section 3, procedures states “Regularly hold meetings in sites other than Boston, to strengthen relationships with the Association’s Member Congregations and other Sources of Authority and Accountability, and also to learn first-hand about vital interests of the Association.” While not a formal policy, I recommend to the board that we accept the invitation.

Presidential Candidates Forums – Working with the Board Secretary, Chair of Election Campaign Practices Committee, and Congregational Life staff, I am scheduled to facilitate five forums: February 25, Eugene, OR; April 1, Bethesda, MD; April 8, Charleston, SC, April 29, Oak Brook, IL, and May 6, Walnut Creek, CA.

Special Collection at GA – I have received a request from Mary Katherine Morn for the board to consider and approve a collection for the Standing on the Side of Love ministry and I urge your approval. This is the only collection during General Sessions. The collection

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during the Service of the Living goes to the Living Tradition Fund, the collection during Synergy service goes to the Katie Tyson Fund, and the collection during Sunday service goes to a local partner.

Board Liaisons – During our board retreat in October, the trustees raised the possibility to reach out and explore establishing board-to-board liaisons with other communities. To that end, I have asked Susan Weaver, former trustee and Vice-Moderator, to act as the UUA board liaison to the UUSC board where Brock Leach has been named the liaison to the UUA board. Susan and Brock have spoken and will be working on a process of liaising with perhaps their first report to the UUA board in April.

Board Development – At the UUA Board Retreat in October 2014 soon after I was first elected as Moderator, I shared with the board my professional views on governance and presented slides that outlined the three primary roles of boards: Fiduciary, Strategic, and Generative. I regret that I have not included the full presentation with new trustees as they come onto the board and pledge to do so when we orient new trustees this summer. I want to review in this meeting the importance of the Fiduciary role and share that presentation which is included in the board packet.

Moderator Nominating Committee – I have asked Rev. Chip Roush to convene the newly appointed committee at GA in New Orleans. Denise Rimes is preparing a charge to the committee that the board will review and approve at the April board meeting.