

Report from the TJD Board

The district board of directors, staff, and several committee chairs gathered for our annual board retreat on August 20 and 21 at Lake Norman State Park in central North Carolina. The objectives of that meeting were both challenging and energizing. I won't list them here, but hope you will review them on our [agenda](#)¹ to appreciate the commitment of the district leadership to serving our sources of authority and accountability. As you may know, we identified those sources in the [Policy Manual](#)² that was approved by delegates at the Annual Meeting May 1. They are:

- Our member congregations
- Current and future generations of Unitarian Universalists
- The heritage, history, and ideals of Unitarian Universalism
- The vision of beloved community
- The spirit of love, life, and the holy

I continue to be in awe of the staff's, committee's, and board's dedication to this great faith. We worked with great passion and energy at Lake Norman State Park, and I wanted to report on the actions we took to Stand on the Side of Love and expand the reach of Unitarian Universalism. To get a sense of that work, read the [Notes of the Board Meeting](#) of August 20-21³

Highlights from the Board Retreat

1. Anti-Racism Re-Envisioning Task Force⁴ (Glenn, hyperlink to their report that should be on our website along with the other reports presented at our meeting).

The board received with thanks and gratitude the report of the task force and approved two items in response. First, we agreed to

¹ If link is broken, go to www.tjdistrict.org, click on TJD Governance, then Minutes and Reports, then Board Meeting Agenda, August 20

² If link is broken, go to www.tjdistrict.org, click on TJD Governance, then Policy and Procedures, then Board Policy Manual, February 10

³ If link is broken, go to www.tjdistrict.org, click on TJD Governance, then Minutes and Reports, then Notes of the Board Meeting of August 20-21

⁴ Rev. Claudia Frost, Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church, Seven Springs, NC
Rev. Audette Fulbright Fulson, UU Church of Roanoke, VA
Betty Chamlee Miller, UU Fellowship of Beaufort, SC
Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist, Williamsburg, VA
Dr. Leon Spencer, UU Fellowship of Statesboro, BA
Lesley Y. Williams, All Souls UU Church, Durham, NC

reach out to Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) and Latina/o Unitarian Universalist Networking Association (LUUNA) to host and support a gathering of multi-generational People of Color in the District. Second, the board asked Peter Kandis to convene an Anti-racism, Anti-oppression, Multicultural (ARAOMC) Monitoring committee of the board to develop actions in response to the report. His first report is due at the board meeting on October 8 in Richmond, VA.

2. Intentional multi-racial, multi-cultural congregations.

Annette Marquis, District Executive, held up the work of congregations in Durham (All Souls), Oak Ridge, Richmond, and Williamsburg for their intentional work in becoming multi-racial, multi-cultural communities. At the board's request, she will develop a strategic plan to identify and support vital congregations in their ARAOMC work. Annette will present the plan to the board in October.

3. Linkage with congregations

Denise Rimes, Vice President of the Board, is researching ways to develop and deepen congregational relationships between and among other congregations, clusters, the district, and the UUA. Additionally, she will consult with Rev. Jake Morrill who, in his UUA Trustee role, is active in improving linkages with congregations. Denise will report in October.

4. Nominating Committee evolving to Leadership Development Committee

Anna Olsen was named interim chair of the Nominating Committee with a charge from the board for that committee to focus on leadership development beyond finding candidates for open positions. Anna will bring a proposed committee charter to the October board meeting for review and approval.

5. Preparation for GA 2011 in Charlotte

Annette reported on the role of Mary Alm, Asheville, as district GA coordinator. Mary will attend the October board meeting to report on the opportunities to support GA in our district, which also marks the 50th Anniversary of the consolidation of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. Annette has

challenged all congregations to send 25 percent of their members to Charlotte in 2011. If the congregations respond, TJD would have over 2500 members in attendance and break a record of attendance by the host district, now held by the Pacific Northwest District.

6. Regional and District structures discussions continue

Jim Key, President of the Board, reported on the planning of a Southland Regional meeting of district boards from Thomas Jefferson, Mid-South, Florida, and Southwestern districts. The meeting, scheduled for December 3-4, will include district directors/trustees, UUA trustees, and staff from the four districts. Also attending will be Gini Courter, Moderator; Harlan Limpert, VP of Ministries; and Terasa Cooley, Director of Congregational Life. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue the discussions begun at GA Minneapolis to seek more efficient methods of governance on behalf of our congregations and more effective delivery of services.

Jim will bring organizational possibilities to the October board meeting for consideration and discussion. The board is interested in pursuing whatever organizational structures might become necessary to further the shared ministry of Unitarian Universalism as long as any changes that emerged would strengthen existing clusters or encourage the formation of new clusters. In addition, the board expressed that any proposed changes must be transparent and approved in accordance with our democratic values.

7. TJD Legacy Scholarship Fund Grows

The board pledged \$15,000 over three years to support the TJD Legacy Scholarship Fund and challenge other donors throughout the District. Denny Davidoff, former Moderator of the UUA and currently Senior Consultant for Development and Alumni/ae Affairs at Meadville Lombard Theological School will be visiting the district in October to raise awareness of the Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to the hard work and personal generosity of Scholarship founders, Rev. Claudia and Dr. David Frost and Eric (soon to be Reverend Eric) and Kathy Kaminetzky, the TJD Legacy Scholarship Fund has \$80,000 already paid or pledged. With additional gifts that are anticipated in response to the district challenge gift, the

fund will soon be able to support a seminarian at Meadville Lombard each year with preference for applicants from TJD.

The next board meeting will be October 8 in conjunction with the Anti-racism Conference in Richmond, VA on October 8 and 9. Board meetings are open to observers (after our board check-in), and you are welcome to join us. If you want to have topics placed on the agenda, or have any comments for the board, please contact me at jkey@uua.org.

Standing on the Side of Love,

Jim Key, President of the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA on behalf of the Board or Directors