

President's Report

Thomas Jefferson District Annual Meeting
May 1, 2010, St. Helena Island, SC

Our Vision: Grounded in our covenantal tradition, we are a vibrant faith community of healthy congregations who grow through service, connection and right relationships, thereby transforming ourselves and the world.

I continue to be inspired by the draft vision above that the board crafted at the August 2009 Board retreat. I have spoken in many congregations, at webinars, and in town hall meetings and continue to remind people of our historical role as a covenantal faith and the responsibility that infers on our congregations to be in right relationship with other congregations in their geographical areas, their clusters, the district, and the association. It is clear to me that the healthy congregations in our district and around the country will be those that are practicing at becoming the Beloved Community and reaching out to marginalized and historically oppressed groups. Those congregations will be ahead of the curve and grow as US demographics shift from a Euro-centric population to a multi-cultural one.

Our challenge as a district and as an Association will be how to best support our congregations as they deal with these changing demographics to provide services and leadership as they deal with the changes.

Our role as a district board is to improve our "linkage" to our congregations—our "sources of authority and accountability"—in policy governance speak. To that end, I continue to visit congregations, conduct Webinars, and host Town Hall meetings. However, judging from e-mails and calls that I receive, "linking" to our congregations continues to be a challenge. Many congregational leaders are not aware of the activities of the district despite multiple e-mails, web postings, webinars, and congregational visits. As a board, we need to explore how we can improve this linkage to foster two-way communications between and among congregations, the district, and the association.

Calendar of events since the last annual meeting:

- May 17, 2009, participated in the installation of Rev. Margaret Beard, UU Church of Augusta, GA
- May 31, assisted Gini Courter with meeting at Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC

- June 14, participated at 10th anniversary of the UU of Transylvania Country (Brevard, NC)
- June 24-28, attended the District Presidents Association in Salt Lake City and GA
- July 10-12, facilitated (as a district consultant) a board retreat at UU Church of Glen Allen on July 10-12, 2009
- August 13-15, moderated district board retreat
- August 2, spoke at UU Congregation of the Sand Hills (NC)
- September 19, met with congregational leaders, Charlotte, NC
- October 2-3, moderated district board meeting, Charlotte, NC
- October 4, spoke at All Souls Waccamaw UU Church, Myrtle Beach and presented a Chalice Lighter grant
- October 9-10, participated in the National Equality March, Wash, DC
- October 25, spoke at UU Church of Greensboro
- October 26, participated in the UUA Audit Committee Meeting, Boston
- October thru December, worked on policy manual with Denise Rimes, VP
- November, participated in multiple conference calls with UUA audit committee to select new external audit firm
- November 1, participated in Public *Standing on the Side of Love* event in Beaufort, SC
- November 5-7, attended District Presidents' Association, Boston, (see my blog on that meeting)
- November 21, spoke at UU Congregation of the Sand Hills (NC)
- December 17, conducted Webinar on Policy-based governance initiative and name-change process
- January 6-9, 2010, attended Consulting Training for Southland Region consultants, Dallas

- January 16, attended Southern Cluster Meeting, Bluffton SC (UU Congregation of the Lowcountry)
- January 24-25, attended UUA Audit Committee Meeting, Boston
- February 5, moderated district board meeting, Richmond, VA
- February 21, spoke at Aiken, SC UU Church and presented a Chalice Lighter grant
- February 27, facilitated workshop for St. Marks Episcopal Chapel, Beaufort, SC
- March 4, conducted Webinar on Governance and Name Change
- March 7, spoke at UU Fellowship, Beaufort, SC
- March 13, conducted Webinar on Governance and Name Change
- March 20, attended Eastern NC Cluster Meeting, Greenville, NC, and conducted Town Hall meeting on Name Change
- March 27, attended Western Cluster Meeting, Ashville, NC, and conducted workshop on Governance as a Spiritual Practice and workshop on Name Change
- April 11, spoke at Unitarian Coastal Fellowship (Morehead City, NC)
- April 18, spoke at UU Congregation of Columbia, SC
- April 25, spoke at UU Fellowship of Statesboro, GA
- April 26, attended UUA Audit Committee meeting, Boston

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Key, President
Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA