

Vice President's Report

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

It has been a rewarding and somewhat unusual year in my role as TJ District Vice President, with several "non-traditional" activities providing new learnings and new contributions.

In the early fall, our District Trustee to the UUA, resigned. There were three (3) candidates, two of whom were current TJ District Board members. I assumed responsibility for building the selection process (based on our District bylaws), and Rev. Jake Morrill was ultimately chosen as our new District Trustee to complete Anna Olsen's term. The process was documented for future use by the District.

As a new student of governance, I spent six months working with the Board on building a new Board governance manual. With terrific commitment by and input from the Board, the manual was finalized and is being implemented by both the Board and the District staff. Our ability to anticipate every possible scenario and plan for them in the policy manual is limited, so we are open to periodic revisions as events occur and needs arise that should be addressed through a policy. Future work includes both Finance and Human Resources policies as well.

I had the opportunity to represent not only my home church, but our District, at the National Equality March in October. It was truly an experience of a lifetime, and has inspired me to become more active in my local community in efforts to broaden the rights of our LGBT sisters and brothers. I have begun more work on social justice by beginning the Jubilee Workshop training, A People so Bold curriculum, and co-chairing the District Anti-Racism Conference (which was rescheduled to this October). This work is so critical in our District, and I hope to broaden my leadership skills and contributions.

I once again had the privilege and joy of organizing the annual awards process. It is always a delight to get an "inside view" of some of the amazing work that goes on throughout our region.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Rimes, Vice President
Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA