

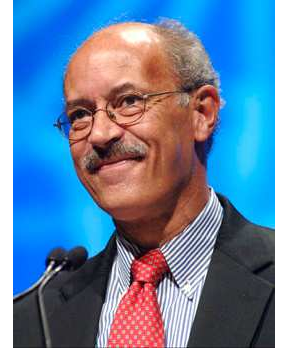
CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

Engaged in recognizing and “re-storying” ourselves for a multicultural Unitarian Universalist future

Headline News from the Diversity of Ministry Initiative:

The tenure of **Reverend William G. (Bill) Sinkford**, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (2001 to 2009), was marked by strong public witness for social justice and support for marginalized communities. As his time as President drew to a close, he noted, “My dream is to fulfill my original calling to parish ministry. I want to preach to congregants whose stories I know, whose children I’ve dedicated and whose elders I have memorialized.” We are delighted to announce that Bill has been called—by an overwhelming 99.7% vote—as the next Senior Minister of the **First Unitarian Church** in Portland, OR.



We also share the following good news regarding ministerial transitions:

The Reverend Carlton Elliot Smith will serve as the consulting minister at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA** for the next two years.

Good news can come in threes! During the past few weeks the newly fellowshipped Reverend Scott McNeill was called to the **Second Unitarian Church of Omaha** as their settled minister, was graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary, and was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA, where he had previously served as intern summer minister.

Recent Events:

An impressive entourage of Unitarian Universalists attended an important conference hosted by **The Middle Project of Middle Collegiate Church**. **The Leading Edge** is a national conference for leaders committed to a multicultural/multiracial future. The largest delegation by far was the Unitarian Universalist one! UUA staff who attended were Taquiena Boston, Janice Marie Johnson, Rev. Alicia Forde, and Diane Martin from the Identity-Based Ministries; Rev. Meg Riley, Susan Leslie, and Kat Liu from the Advocacy and Witness; Jessica York, Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings, and Gail Forsyth Vail from Lifespan Faith Development. Consultants Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson Harris and Paula Cole Jones were also in attendance. The **All Souls Unitarian Church** from Tulsa, OK sent an all-staff delegation of 9, including their senior minister, Rev. Marlin Lavenhar. **First Parish Cambridge, MA** sent a delegation of 6, including their senior minister, Rev. Dr. Fred Small and their newly-called Associate Minister, Rev. Lilia Cuervo. Delegates from several Metro NY congregations (including **Staten Island, Garden City, Queens, Community Church of New York**, and the **UU Congregation of the Palisades** in Englewood, NJ) and seminarians were also in attendance. Two key phrases from this conference describe the richness of working together toward a shared multiracial/multicultural future: “inspiring vision” and “narrative arc.” In the coming transition, we will work to incorporate these inspiring ideas into future plans for our office.

Upcoming Events:

Members of the new **Multicultural Growth & Witness** staff group will meet together in Bethesda, MD on May 26th and 27th to engage in visioning and planning for the future.

General Assembly: For those of you planning on attending GA, we invite you to attend the following workshops with which we are involved: Advocacy and Organizing; Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression,

Multiculturalism; Congregational Leadership; Environmental Justice; Growing Healthy Congregations; Identity; and Governance; International Partnership; Legacy; Ministry and Professional Leadership; Multigenerational Congregations; Practical Arts for Congregations; Social Justice Issues; and Stewardship.

Ministry Across the Generations: Creating Multigenerational Faith Development Community

July 10 to 17 at Star Island. Building the World We Dream About: A Unitarian Universalist Curriculum on Race and Ethnicity. Janice Marie Johnson, workshop leader.

SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute). July 18 to 24, in Radford, VA. Worship “Once Upon a Time: New Stories for Times Beyond Tomorrow.” Morning theme talk and afternoon talk back presenter, Janice Marie Johnson.

Youth and Young Adults of Color Leadership Development Conference, August 13 to 17 in Boston, MA. Rev Dr. Monica Cummings, Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color, Dean.

Exciting New Resources:

The **revised Spanish language hymnal supplement** will be available at GA 2010! President Peter Morales notes, “Unitarian Universalism’s commitment to becoming a multicultural faith remains unshaken. Our message of inclusion, compassion and justice transcends culture and language.” One way in which we experience this commitment is in the upcoming publication of a revised edition of the Spanish hymnal supplement, *Las voces del camino* (Voices of the Journey). Familiarize yourself with this tremendous resource. Let us share in singing its praises and in singing new songs.

For the third month, ministers on the journey of multicultural ministry met via telephone, creating a **virtual learning community**. In the month of April, the Reverends Fred Muir and John Crestwell of the **UU Church of Annapolis** shared a detailed case study of the congregation’s worship life. Best practices for creating and sustaining multicultural community that emerged included intentional diversification of staff and ensuring that there are multiple entry points to the conversation through the congregation’s life.

Updates from Our Office:

We mentioned in last month’s issue of *Catalyst* that as of July 1st, our work will be housed within the dynamic new staff group, Multicultural Growth & Witness. As with most change, this transition carries with it a certain amount of loss. Many of our colleagues whose positions were eliminated as part of recent structural changes will be leaving us during the month of June. Though space does not permit us to acknowledge their many contributions to anti-racism and anti-oppression work throughout the association, we wanted to pause to acknowledge their efforts. They will be missed.

As we move into this new era, the work of multiculturalism remains a top priority for the UUA. Our office structure will be shifting, and some of our resources—including *Catalyst*—may be re-envisioned and re-purposed. We thank you for engaging with us on this journey, and hope you will continue to do so as we move into this time of change and opportunity.

Dream with us. Strategize with us. Build community with us. Support us...Join us in this holy work.

Living our faith,



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