

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING 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:



Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of Beloved Community, **First Parish in Cambridge** is moving joyfully into a multiracial, multicultural, justice-making future. To that end, **Rev. Dr. Lilia Cuervo** was installed as the congregation's Associate Minister on September 26th.

UUA President **Rev. Peter Morales** preached Lilia's installation sermon, Multicultural Growth Director **Janice Marie Johnson** delivered the charge to the congregation, and Transitions Director **Rev. Keith Kron** delivered the charge to Lilia. The service offered a graceful weaving of Latin and American cultures in every aspect, and was a beautiful example of best practices.

On September 26th, **Rev. Pamela Wat** was ordained by **Pathways Church** in Southlake, Texas. The occasion was festive and included many distinguished colleagues, friends, and family who have supported her call to ministry. **Rev. Sofia Betancourt** preached the sermon of ordination. Pamela has just begun serving as Consulting Minister at the **Denton UU Congregation** in Denton, Texas. Pamela's own words mark the significance of this passage: "In the midst of our new beginnings, may each of us find in our fellowship together a community that supports, strengthens, challenges and inspires us always."

Former UUA President **Rev. Bill Sinkford** was installed as Senior Minister of the **First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR** on October 17th. The historic event took place at the Portland Art Museum, and **Rev. Rob Hardies**, senior minister of **All Souls Church in Washington, D.C.**, preached.

We are excited to announce that the **First Unitarian Church** of Littleton, MA has recently called the **Reverend Marta Valentin** to serve as their settled minister. Rev. Valentin writes:

"After a long, thoughtful process the congregation voted and extended the call which I accepted. My partner Alison and I burst into tears (at home alone) when we got the call to know that we could finally settle down in the state we want to remain in. When I returned to the sanctuary they gave me a standing ovation, lots of hugs, kisses, and tears (from men as well!). There is a lot of love in this congregation, (and emotion which is why we keep tissues in the pews!)."

The process has enabled me to have extensive and open conversations with them about what my ministry means for them. A vote for me is a vote to figuring out how to make FCU a multicultural congregation at the most, or a congregation with a multicultural frame of reference at the least. We are embracing this vision one step at a time."

Upcoming Events:

We are pleased to announce that in March of 2011, the Office of Multicultural Growth will host its first Multicultural Growth Consultation. We are very excited about this event, which was conceptualized by **Rev. Alicia Forde** and has developed under her leadership. Using an Appreciative Inquiry approach, we will explore, with ten congregations, the strengths of their multicultural ministries. This event will continue an ongoing and vital conversation within Unitarian Universalism and our hope is that it will inform the shape of our nascent Multicultural Institute.

The congregational leaders who will participate are a subset of our Multicultural Learning Community. Though we were only able to invite a small group to the consultation, the wisdom and support of the larger learning community continue to guide our present and future efforts. For more information on the consultation or the process of appreciative inquiry, please contact Alicia Forde at aforde@uaa.org.

Building the World We Dream About (BtWWDA):

Building the World We Dream About is a Unitarian Universalist program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. It is authored by **Mark A. Hicks, Ed.D.**, the Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Our congregations are starting to offer workshops from the program. Learn more about it at www.uaa.org/tapestryoffaith/buildingworld

If you are interested in answers to the following questions, email Janice Marie Johnson at jmjohnson@uaa.org: What is Building the World We Dream About? Why is it so long? Can it be shortened or adapted? What if we cannot find ideal facilitators? What if we experience ourselves as monocultural?

Updates from Our Office:

We are very interested in growing the Multicultural Learning Community. One of our main objectives is to create an avenue for networking, support, and the cross-fertilization of experiences that have the power to broaden our collective multiracial/multicultural practices. The more we grow, the more we learn! If you or someone you know is energized by and engaged in the work of multicultural ministry—including deeply-rooted ongoing social justice efforts—please contact Alicia Forde at aforde@uaa.org to learn more about this community.

We were delighted recently to welcome **Alex Kapitan** as our new Congregational Justice Administrator. Alex's main role with us will be to connect congregations, districts, and other UU leaders with social justice resources, programs, and services provided by the UUA and other relevant organizations. In this capacity, she will help congregations be more effective in welcome, inclusion, and social justice ministry in a multicultural world.

Staff of Color working at the UUA will have an opportunity to commune at an upcoming event titled "A Gathering of Thanksgiving." The meeting will give staff of color an opportunity to connect with one another, and will invite these staff to share their experiences and yearnings with us. We hope to create paths to helping the UUA understand what welcome and hospitality look like for staff of color.

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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