

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

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

Finding Our Way Home, 2011:

Photos by India McKnight



The fourth annual Diversity of Ministry retreat, Finding Our Way Home—which welcomes religious professionals who identify as people of color, Latina/o, Hispanic, and/or multiracial and multiethnic—was a success! The Multicultural Growth staff hosted the gathering, which took place at the National Labor College in Bethesda, Maryland, from March 16 through 19, 2011. It was a wonderful site for our retreat.

This was our largest gathering yet: over 60 ministers, religious educators, and seminarians were in attendance. These colleagues came from as nearby as the District of Columbia, and as far away as Geneva, Switzerland. Each year, attendees express their gratitude and say that the retreat is key to enhancing their commitment to and comfort in the Unitarian Universalist community. It was deeply gratifying to see old friends and colleagues, form new bonds, and be in collegial community together. We hope to continue to host this gathering for many years to come!

Settlements of Ministers of Color:

We joyfully note that **Rev. Wendy Pantoja** was called as Minister to the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, FL**, which has been working with the Diversity of Ministry Initiative.

We are also delighted to note the following settlements:

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong, Minister, **First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, HI**
Rev. Dr. Susan Newman, Interim Associate Minister of Congregational Life and Social Justice,
All Souls Church, Unitarian, Washington, DC
Rev. Lauren Smith, Co-Minister with **Rev. Chris Holton Jablonski**,
South Church, Portsmouth, NH

Congratulations are also in order to **First Church Unitarian in Littleton, MA**, which celebrated the installation of **Rev. Marta I. Valentín** as its settled minister on Sunday April 3rd, 2011.

Updates from Our Office:

Are you looking for simple ways to get your congregation thinking and talking about race and ethnicity? Check out our **Video Loan Library**! Pairing a movie screening with a group discussion is a great way to stimulate thoughtful conversations and/or compliment an existing anti-racism program or series.

The library, which is maintained by Multicultural Growth & Witness, houses videos on themes relating to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. Videos are provided free of charge to UU congregations, districts, and individuals. To peruse the library and request a video, go to www.uua.org/multicultural and click on "Video Loan Library" under "Tools."

Upcoming Events:

The Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay Districts are hosting **Renewing Our Commitment to Multicultural Ministries**, a gathering of congregational teams and individuals seeking to develop understanding, skills, and strategies to promote and support inclusive, anti-racist ministry. Held May 14, 2011 at First Church Unitarian in Littleton, MA, and featuring **Paula Cole Jones**, this event is the first of what will become an annual gathering offered by GRACE (Growing Racial and Cultural Equality), Clara Barton District's Anti-Racism Team. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/gcQl81>.

Mark your calendars and share the great news! The **Multicultural Leadership School for Youth and Young Adults of Color** will once again take place in Boston this summer. The conference will be held from August 5-9, 2011, and is open to youth and young adults ages 15-30. Applications are due May 15th. To apply and find out more information, visit www.uua.org/religiouseducation/new/171206.shtml.

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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