

# CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

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

## Multicultural Leadership School 2011:

*Photo courtesy of Monica Cummings*



*Multicultural Leadership School attendees with UUA President Peter Morales*

What happens when a dynamic group of UU youth and young adults of color gather at the UUA for 3 ½ days of training at the **Multicultural Leadership School (MLS)**? A spectacular, bonded community of peers emerges, prepared to lead the way in building and supporting a multicultural, anti-racist, anti-oppressive Unitarian Universalist faith community.

The MLS offered deepening of faith formation and identity, racial/ethnic identity development, general leadership development, and intercultural collaboration. Participants met and engaged with President Peter Morales, Executive Vice-President Kay Montgomery, Director of International Resources Eric Cherry, and other staff and volunteer leaders. Rev. Dr. **Monica L. Cummings**, Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color, served as Dean. **Jessica York**, Youth Programs Director, and **Janice Marie Johnson**, Multicultural Growth Director, served as facilitators. The training was a huge success, and we're excited to see the ways in which these dedicated young leaders will continue to make their presence known.

## Updates from Our Office:

The **Multicultural Growth & Witness** staff group is working on a Skinner House book to help share the learnings of congregations that have committed themselves to becoming multicultural beloved communities. The book will present stories that depict the life-giving nature of this work and this journey—as well as a frank portrayal of the challenges that some communities have faced, and how they overcame them.

Here's where **we need your help**: please share your stories with us! We welcome narratives about leadership, worship, justice work, religious education, congregational culture, relationship building with the community, membership work, and hospitality. We particularly want to make sure that the perspectives and experiences of people of color are lifted up in our book.

An ideal story would incorporate external responses; for instance, if you experienced increased attendance at worship or if partners in justice work expressed appreciation for your relationship-building efforts, we'd love to know that part of the story. There's no need to write in polished prose. Just tell your story to us as if you're recounting it to a friend.

**Please submit your story** to [mcstories@uua.org](mailto:mcstories@uua.org) by **October 15th**, and thank you! Your stories and your dedication to this faith matter.

### Recent Events:



*Janice Marie Johnson with People's Institute trainers*

Twelve members of the **Metro New York District Committee on Anti-Racism and Diversity (ARDC)** attended an intense three-day anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism training in New York that was organized by the **People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**. This training is part of the ongoing anti-racism and multiculturalism work of the Metro New York District, and is the result of much preparation and groundwork. Monica Walker, María I. Reinat-Pumarejo, Joseph Barndt, and Joseph Maldonado (apprentice) served as trainers.

Rev. Alicia R. Forde and Rev. Deborah Holder co-facilitated the Beloved Community learning module at the recent **Mountain Desert District Russell Lockwood Leadership School** from July 31-August 6 in Loveland, CO. This was the first year that the school made an intentional effort to weave themes of anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism throughout its curriculum; the result was a program that encouraged participants to think explicitly about their roles as leaders in shaping our multicultural Unitarian Universalist faith.

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

Living our faith,



**Janice Marie Johnson**

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