

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

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

Updates from the Diversity of Ministry Team:

Photo courtesy of Abhi Janamanchi



The Diversity of Ministry Team: (back row, left to right): Rev. Alicia Forde, Tracy Ahlquist, Rev. Josh Pawelek, Rev. Sarah Lammert, Rev. Harlan Limpert, Rev. Peter Morales, Rev. Abhi Janamanchi; (front row): Rev. Keith Kron, Rev. Danielle DiBona, Janice Marie Johnson; (not pictured): Rev. David Pettee

The members of the **Diversity of Ministry Team**—comprised of UUA national staff and representatives of **Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)** and the **UU Ministers Association (UUMA)**—met in mid-October for two full days to reflect, vision, and to plan for the future. Ted Fetter, President of the Metro New York District and the District Presidents Association, served as facilitator.

Together, these dedicated staff and volunteers worked to tell the story of who and what DOMT has been in the past; what’s at stake as we continue to support anti-racist and multicultural ministries and congregations; and how we can best be of service, given the responses we received from religious professionals of color and DOMT congregations. We were joined by **Rev. John Crestwell** of the **UU Church of Annapolis**, who shared his odyssey of participating in the Diversity of Ministry Initiative and the inspiring work that his congregation has done in service of its vision.

Members of DOMT emerged with a renewed commitment to the work of this team, and with an action plan to: support ministers of color; build congregational readiness and support; tell the story of multicultural ministries within our movement; and build relationships with UU organizations and seminaries. The journey continues—and we look forward to staying in touch with you as we move forward together.

Recent Events:

Congratulations to the **First Unitarian Church of Honolulu**, which launched its Start Up weekend on September 18, 2011—**Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong**, congregational members, and district leaders report that it was a transformative experience. The weekend began with a meeting between Rev. Dr. Kwong, District Executive **Rev. Robert Latham**, and Board President **Carla Allison**, in which they spoke candidly about how the church will begin its new partnership with its first-ever Asian minister.

Then the next day, members and leaders engaged with the community of the **Leeward Coast of Oahu**, a multicultural community that is growing by leaps and bounds. That evening, the Honolulu congregation engaged in a deep, meaningful, and passionate conversation around challenges it faces, including racial/ethnic diversity, as well as the possibilities and potential that lay ahead. Thirty members attended.

On Saturday, the Board met in the afternoon to hear their minister's plan of growing a multicultural, multi-faith, and multi-site Unitarian Universalist witness in Hawaii. The congregation is seeking to expand its impact and transform itself, while growing with intentionality about whom it want to reach. On Sunday, 50 members of the congregation bore witness to this vision, and the Board decided to assemble a Growth Team that will be charged with moving this exciting project forward.

The congregation will hold a workshop on multiculturalism on Saturday, November 19th; members are also looking forward to welcoming former UUA President **Rev. William Sinkford**, who will to perform the rite of installation for Rev. Dr. Kwong on Sunday, November 20th.

In the News:

You're most likely aware of the groundswell movements that are taking place around the world—using language of “Occupy,” “De-Colonize,” “De-Occupy,” “Emancipate,” and other ways of reclaiming agency within wildly unequal economic systems. Many UUs are already engaging with these protests, and with deeper discussions of inequality; UUA President **Rev. Peter Morales** issued a statement on these protests, and we encourage you to view it here: <http://bit.ly/q1n6Y1>. Included on that page are links to resources around economic justice. We also encourage you to use UUA resources such as the study guide on classism for *Elite* by Mark Harris: <http://bit.ly/pgCHc4>. This brief document is an excellent standalone resource, and will be useful for starting conversations whether you've read the book or not.

For an examination of why the “Occupy” movement may not speak to people of color, and how various communities have responded, read Native Appropriations' thought-provoking blog post here: <http://bit.ly/qHBHoq>. The page also includes links to many other useful posts elsewhere online.

We hope that no matter where you are, this historic moment will provide opportunities for each of us to engage critically in conversations around class, race, and inequality.

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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