



DRUUMM PREPARES FOR GA AS UUA AT CROSSROADS

In This Issue

Holding Uvalde

Membership Drive

DRUUMM Steering Committee Elections

200+ Adoptions of the 8th Principle

You Can Count on This

Notations



After two years of virtual meetings due to the global pandemic, the UUA General Assembly (GA) returns with a hybrid in-person and virtual program for 2022 centered in Portland, Oregon. GA has historically been a primary place of connection for Black, Indigenous and People of Color in Unitarian Universalism, although increasingly DRUUMM is organizing year-round virtual programming.

This year's DRUUMM Programs at GA kicks off with our In-Gathering Worship co-led by Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel and incoming President-Elect Esperanza Garza-Danweber. Our DRUUMM Village space throughout GA is in Convention Center E145. Members will be leading caucus meetups to connect culturally and in other intentional ways.

DRUUMM @ GA

Drop by our DRUUMM Booth #339 at the Exhibition Hall to pickup your member ribbon and get the latest on our programs. **Register** at www.druumm.org to receive more details and updates on our in-person and virtual events. For more information please contact Imari Kariotis DRUUMM GA Coordinator druummacmc@gmail.com

DRUUMM Programs at General Assembly

June 22-26, 2022
Portland, Oregon

Schedule Highlights

Wednesday, June 22nd

7:00 PM In-Gathering Community Worship (hybrid)

Thursday, June 23rd

12:30 PM Caucusing (Bring Your Own Lunch)

Friday, June 24th

12:30 PM Membership Meeting (hybrid)

Saturday, June 25th

12:30 PM Caucusing (Bring Your Own Lunch)

8:00 PM Closing Worship (hybrid)

HOLDING UVALDE



Beloveds,

Here we are again. And as painful as it is to say that, I am grateful that I say it to you and our community that holds each of us with love and care. I don't know how it is that we are expected to just go on with our lives, grateful to be among the living, mourning the lives angrily removed from this earth by two lost souls' whims - the young lives in Texas yet to discover their heart's desire, and the middlers and elders in Buffalo doing their best to honor their own.

Let us pray not only for those innocents and innocent souls but that our own rage does not consume

us but rather fuels the continued fight for justice and love to overcome all that overwhelms us. It is not that it is solely up to us UUs to save what is lost, but only that we not lose heart; that we turn to one another with hope and not away; that we strengthen our internal landscapes with the knowledge that we belong to a beloved, life-affirming, love-giving and creating community. Let us turn the mourning that unites us in this heartbreaking time into a new morning of resolve, radiant from the dawn of a community that greets us each new day, ready to hold us in time and space, ready to hold space with and for us as we move toward healing from a trauma we did not ask

HOLDING UVALDE

for, and do not want to lodge in our bodies. There is no space for more trauma, and we must continue to make space for healing.

Let us be vessels of tender care and compassion, holding space for our grief in ways that give us our breath back so that we may let it flow toward this hurting world guided by our love for one another.

Amen. Ashe. Blessed Be. Que asi sea.



Rev. Marta

DRUUMM Chaplains offer pastoral care virtually with members. If connecting with a BIPOC UU Minister would be helpful for your spirit, please make request by visiting <https://www.druumm.org/meet-our-chaplains/>



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



**MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE**

**BUILDING OUR
BELOVED COMMUNITY**

*AN INVITATION TO BIPOC UU TO JOIN
OR RENEW THIS MONTH OF JUNE*

**MEMBERSHIP STARTS AT \$15/YEAR
GROUP MEMBERSHIP AT \$300/YEAR**

WWW.DRUUMM.ORG 

DRUUMM membership generates the relationships and resources we need to thrive as a spiritual community. We invite interested BIPOC Unitarian Universalists to learn more about becoming a member. There is also a new Group Membership option for congregations and UU organizations.

Membership runs for one year, and is our primary source of income for our organizational activities. As a member you will receive access to the latest news and community events, and support our mission in the wider world.

Individual membership starts at \$15

Group membership starts at \$300

Discounted options available for people living in the Global South

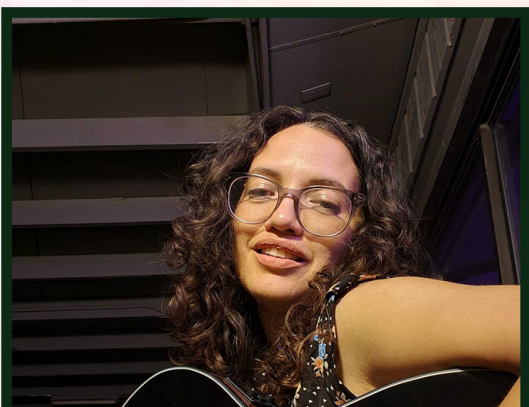
Learn more at: www.druumm.org/membership

DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

As a community ministry, we uphold a democratic process where members elect our leadership. DRUUMM holds elections each year to vote on members to serve on our Steering Committee, our highest governing body. Per our bylaws, a nominating committee was formed and candidates have been proposed for the vacant positions. We are grateful to Rev. Sangye Hawke (chair), Isaac Castro, Rev. Sana Saeed, Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, Ayanna Kafi, and Rev. Michael Crumpler for their service on our Nominating Committee. If you have interest in serving, please reach out to us at info@druumm.org.

Voting has been extended to Sunday, June 12th, 2022 at 8:00 PM Eastern. Members can vote by visiting <https://druumm.wildapricot.org/Sys/Poll/34712>. You are required to login as a member to cast your vote. If you cannot access your member ballot, please contact our DRUUMM Administrator at dawn.druumm@gmail.com.

The following members have graciously agreed to serve and the DRUUMM Nominating Committee recommends your vote in support. Members are also permitted to write-in candidates.



Esperanza Garza-Danweber
Vice President & President-Elect

Esperanza Garza-Danweber is a mestiza tejana who works as a school librarian in her hometown of San Antonio, Texas. She joined First UU San Antonio in 2009 and since has served in many capacities including church Board of Directors. Esperanza joined DRUUMM at GA 2019 and while she loved being a part of the Organizing Project Advisory Board for three years, she is even more humbled to join the Steering Committee. Her hobbies are chading after her three children, reading, gardening, singing, and playing the guitar.



Kate Goka
Treasurer

I live in the SF Bay Area with my wife and three kids. I grew up with a white Unitarian Universalist mom and a Japanese Buddhist dad and remember learning about Harriet Tubman at our UU fellowship Sunday school as well as bowing at the Buddhist altar in my grandmother's house in Japan. As an adult, I've practiced meditation in various settings and recently committed to jukai or formal practice to take the Zen Buddhist precepts. I had a long break from Unitarian Universalism but found my way back when I worked as a religious educator at a UU congregation near my house. I've been on the steering committee of the Asian/ Pacific Islander Caucus of DRUUMM for the last three years and have co-created curriculum for Beloved Conversations for families.

Verdis LeVar Robinson (he/him or they) is the Lenora Montgomery Scholar of Excellence at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where he is a candidate for a Master of Divinity and is a Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. He is currently completing a ministerial internship at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Vermont. Verdis was a confirmed local minister in the African American Holiness-Pentecostal tradition prior to joining the First Universalist Church of Rochester, New York, in 2008. Verdis has served as a Worship Associate/Coordinator, Lay Preacher, Committee on Ministry, Choir Member/Soloist, Religious Education Instructor, and a member of the Social Justice Team.



Verdis Robinson
GA Coordinator



Karin Lin
Communications Coordinator

Karin Lin (she/her) is a lay leader at First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she co-chairs the Racial Equity Team and convenes the BIPOC caucus. She has been an UU for twenty years and is a longtime member of DRUUMM. Karin is co-author with Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones of the book *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* (Skinner House, 2019). She is the mother of two teenagedaughters and works as a software engineer in the field of natural language processing.

200+ ADOPTIONS
CONGRATULATIONS

THE 8TH PRINCIPLE
OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM



JOURNEYING TOWARD
SPIRITUAL
WHOLENNESS



TO BUILD A DIVERSE MULTICULTURAL



BELOVED
COMMUNITY

BY OUR ACTIONS THAT ACCOUNTABLY
DISMANTLE

RACISM
& OTHER OPPRESSIONS

IN OURSELVES AND OUR INSTITUTIONS

YOU CAN COUNT ON THIS



DRUUMM hosted our Public Worship featuring guest preacher Rev. B. Tyler Coles and musical artists Dr. Zanaida Robles and Wells Lang. Over 250 people attended our intimate zoom gathering that was also broadcast online. A recording has been posted at www.druumm.org for public use. Thank you to the over 75 congregations and UU organizations who co-sponsored our annual event, with special appreciations to UU Allies for Racial Equity for their support and solidarity. Together we raised over \$25,000 in support of our programs and ministry.

THANK YOU CO-SPONSORS

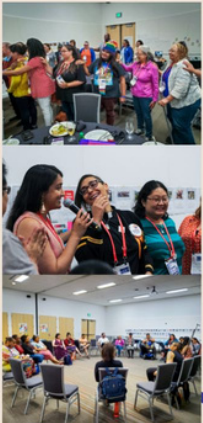
- All Souls Church, Washington DC
- All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa
- Allies for Racial Equity
- Beloved Community and Social Justice Committees of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville
- Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
- Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Jacksonville, Florida
- Cedar Lane UU Church
- Central East Region People of Color
- Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Chesapeake Chapter of UUMA
- Church of the Larger Fellowship
- First Parish in Cambridge
- First Parish Lexington (MA)
- First Parish in Needham Unitarian Universalist
- First Parish Watertown (MA) UU
- First Unitarian Portland, OR
- First Unitarian Church of Oakland
- First Unitarian Church of Rochester
- First Unitarian Church of Wilmington
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, Beloved Community, and Social Justice Committees
- First Unitarian Universalist Church, Richmond VA
- First UU Church of San Antonio
- First UU Society of San Francisco
- First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
- First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
- First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
- Foothills Unitarian Church
- Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, Wisconsin
- Fox Valley UU Fellowship
- Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church
- Joseph Priestley LREDA Chapter
- Liberal Religious Educators Association
- Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
- Mt. Diablo UU Church
- Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church
- North Parish of North Andover, MA, Unitarian Universalist
- People's Church, Kalamazoo, MI
- Quimper Unitarian Universalist
- San Antonio Gente Engaged with Unitarian Universalism, SAGE
- San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Sanctuary Boston
- Side of Love
- South Carolina Unitarian Universalist Justice Alliance
- Starr King UU Church, Hayward, CA,
- Starr King UU Fellowship (Plymouth, NH)

THANK YOU CO-SPONSORS

- Tapestry, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
- Texas UU Justice Ministry
- The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton
- The Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough
- Theodore Parker UU Church, West Roxbury, MA
- Unitarian Church of Montpelier (VT) Racial Justice Group
- Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois
- Unitarian Universalist Association Multicultural Ministries
- Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill (New Jersey)
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, PA
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
- Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, OR
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County, Wisconsin
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg
- Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association
- Unitarian Universalist Association Side With Love
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Unity Temple UU Congregation (Oak Park, Illinois)
- UU Church of the Desert
- UU Fellowship of Door County
- UUS:E, Manchester, CT
- UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada
- UU Mass Action
- UU Society East
- UUs of Mt. Airy
- Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Seattle WA
- White Bear UU Church

NOTATIONS

**JOIN OUR GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON
JUNE 22 - 26, 2022**



DRUUMM VILLAGE GA 2022

Portland, OR
June 22-26, 2022



- 50+ members attended the UU Principles & Purposes forum with Dr. Paula Cole Jones and Rev. Cheryl M Walker from the UUA Article 2 Commission that is expected to be making historic changes to our core values.
- There are now over 180 congregations and UU groups that have adopted the 8th Principle.
- DRUUMM is exploring an internal advocacy campaign to establish a consistent and appropriate racial and cultural data collection standard. The UUA and our congregations are one of the only faiths without a regular census that allows us to understand our demographics.
- Rev. Danielle Di Bona will be completing her service as Lead Chaplain after more than 20 years. She will continue as a member of the chaplain team. Rev. Manish Misrha-Marzetti will begin serving as Lead Chaplain starting in July.
- DRUUMM Chaplains responded to 44 pastoral requests over the last year.
- Our DRUUMM President Ayanna Kafi has graciously agreed to extend her term by up to 6 months to support a smooth transition in leadership, passing the torch to Esperanza Garza-Danweber by the end of 2022.
- We send our best wishes to Dandelion Prinsloo who has resigned from the Steering Committee to focus on their health and well-being.
- Jamili Omar will be joining the DRUUMM Organizing Project Advisory Committee.
- Over 80 people attended Finding Our Way Home, the annual gathering of religious professionals of color, held in Long Beach, California in April. This was the first gathering in-person since 2019.
- The DRUUMM Steering Committee is preparing to meet in-person for retreat and business in New Orleans this November 11-13, 2022.



The DRUUMM Beat Issue 27 Volume 2

Editor Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons

Editorial Board: Nicole Pressley

For inquiries please email editor@druumm.org

The DRUUMM Beat is published under the direction of the DRUUMM Steering Committee and the Communications Portfolio. Join in the conversation with DRUUMM on Twitter and follow us on Facebook for the latest news.

Read online at www.druumm.org

