

# THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE &amp; REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

JUNE 21, 2019

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3



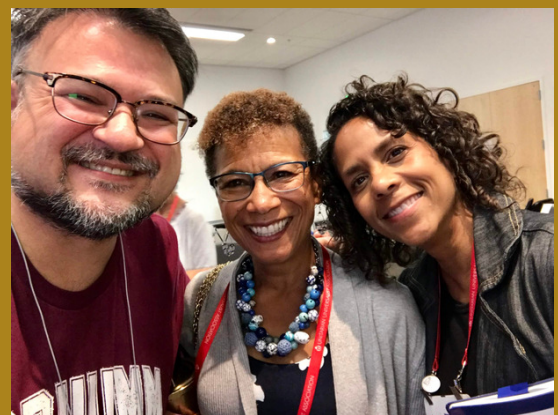
## HISTORIC GATHERING OF POC FACILITATORS

In our denomination with an estimated 2% People of Color, there is today a growing movement of small group ministries across our 1,000+ congregations tending to the spiritual growth and faith formation of UU People of Color. The DRUUMM Organizing Project, an initiative to strengthen our relationship with UU People of Color at a local and regional level, has completed a preliminary community scan to identify 41 UU People of Color groups across the US and Canada.

On Friday morning June 21, 34 facilitators of UU People of Color small group ministries gathered for a breakfast meeting at the Spokane Convention Center to learn more about one another and develop new relationships of mutual support.

These groups are emerging out of new conditions driven in large part by the 22 years of training, organizing and institutional change launched by the passage of the Journey Towards Wholeness Resolution at the 1997 GA in Phoenix. Two of the oldest groups on record in San Diego and Pasadena originated as DRUUMM groups led by early steering committee members.

Over the next year, we are envisioning ways to better understand how to support thriving local UU People of Color groups, provide resources and orientation for facilitators, and continue to build accountability with leadership, DRUUMM members and friends at the level.



Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Rhonda Brown, Dinandrea Vega of the Organizing Project Advisory Committee

# DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON GA 2019

This General Assembly marks the 50th year of the 1969 Black Empowerment controversy and Stonewall Riots. We find ourselves recalling the harm caused by the breach that initiated the loss of people of color, some of whom never returned. As we reflect on the Power of We, Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) leadership finds ourselves asking who is included in the “we”?

We, as people of color, find ourselves confronting yet again a harmful and toxic narrative that violates the covenants that bind us as a faith community.

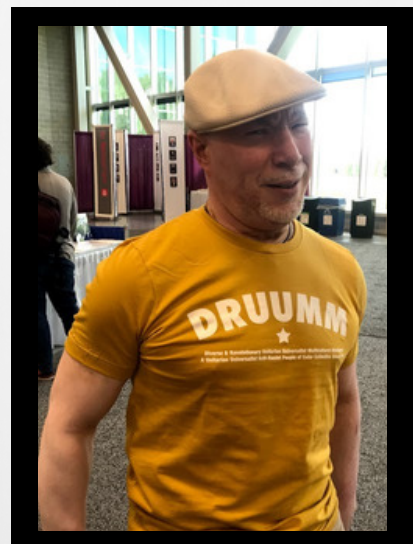
The Gadfly Papers by Todd F. Eklof being shared at General Assembly reintroduces toxic history and theologies containing transphobia, ableism, sexism, which targets people of color, and in particular religious educators. This breach of covenant highlights the need of the UUMA’s ongoing work to address accountability in ministerial misconduct. As we grapple with the findings of the Commission on Institutional Change this week, we ask what will Unitarian Universalism do with the truth that things are worse than we realize?

We are called to go deeper and to stay in community. The great prophetic vision of our shared faith is one in which we know Heaven on earth and the reality of interconnectedness is fully realized. We do this work because our fate, and faith, are connected. While our community creates space to address the harm caused by this book and center its own people. We, people of color, DRUUMM leaders, need for white Unitarian Universalists to do the work you are being called to do to dismantle white supremacy in our Unitarian Universalist communities and to hold accountable the ministers who weaponize white supremacy in this faith.

We people of color, know this will not be the last statement on harm being caused to our communities by our siblings who strategize to hold on to toxic interpretations creating a Unitarian Universalism that is only for white people. Let this be known, we as people of color are committed to our Unitarian Universalist faith, we are not going anywhere and are holding steadfast in the face of false prophets who aim to harm and divide our community. We invite you, our white siblings to join us in being part of our collective liberation of an inclusive and more powerful we.

## NOTATIONS

- Two years ago a campaign began to add an 8th Principle to our UUA centering our journey towards a diverse multicultural Beloved Community. Co-Moderator Elandria Williams noted the UUA Board is preparing to conduct a comprehensive review of our UUA Principles as a whole.
- Past DRUUMM President Paula Cole Jones presented this years LREDA Fah's Lecture entitled "Building a Community of Communities."



## Sunday Morning Worship Service:

## “In This Delicate Turning”

*Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful communal worship experience will take place at the Spokane Convention Center on June 23, 2019 at 10am in Ballroom B/C. Everyone is welcome to attend and live stream.*



The Rev. Marta I. Valentín, who will deliver the sermon, is in a shared ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Medford, MA. Prior to that she shared her gifts in ministries with churches in Littleton, MA; Arlington, VA; and New Orleans, LA. She is Denominational Counselor to the UU students at Harvard Divinity School and is a “centering people of color” consultant to the GA Planning Committee, as well as with UU churches.

A poet, her prayers and poems appear in many Skinner House Books, including her own meditation manual, *A Long Time Blooming*, signifying, as a Puerto Rican, the first sole author of color to do so. She is married to Alison Chase and they have a daughter, Jaiya, a doggie Jack and a Siamese cat, Cleo. Each year a talented group of choral singers perform at the Sunday Morning Worship for the General Assembly audience. Learn about joining the GA Choir.

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### The DRUUMM Beat Issue 2, Volume 3 Special Edition

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