



In This Issue

- Unitarian Universalist's Promise for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Regional Caucusing
- Process Out Loud
- Remembering Our Divine Self
- Community Calendar
- Member Check-in: How are you feeling about Unitarian Universalism?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST'S PROMISE FOR BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

This weekend on Saturday, September 18th over 100 DRUUMM members are gathering as part of our Regional Caucuses. We're connecting as BIPOC Unitarian Universalists, building community more locally, and reflecting on the future of our faith.

Over the last 25 years, DRUUMM members have expressed profound commitments to Unitarian Universalism, both its tradition and its promise. Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, a former DRUUMM President said, "Unitarian Universalism is who I am and it's in my bones."

Within our community we have heard story after story of BIPOC UUs contending with the faith that we chose to center in our lives - theologies that offer sacred attention to multiple truths, expanding consciousness, centering the margins, and revealing unseen beauty. We also have had to look at what it is now, and “let it go”. For many of us, while Unitarian Universalism resonates deeply, commitment to it can cause painful dissonance because it often requires moving away from a community that affirms our racial identity. But we have been called to this faith, and BIPOC UU are often acutely aware of the tension and question of belonging. Many of us are not going anywhere, and BIPOC UUs are increasingly in congregational leadership and becoming religious professionals at every level of our faith.

- How are you feeling about your faith?
- How are you feeling about Unitarian Universalism?
- What is a hope you have for the future of Unitarian Universalism?

To learn more and register visit www.druumm.org or contact dawn.druumm@gmail.com.



REGIONAL CAUCUSING



DRUUMM Regional Caucuses

Saturday, September 18th, 2021
4:00 PM to 6:30 PM Eastern



DRUUMM REGIONAL CAUCUSES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM EASTERN (1:00 PM PACIFIC)
REGISTER: [HTTPS://DRUUMM.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-4447188](https://druumm.wildapricot.org/event-4447188)

As we face a world on fire and the dehumanizing impact of racism, we need one another more than ever for our own healing and liberation. DRUUMM is hosting regional member-led BIPOC spaces with the intention of deepening our connections with one another, being present to one another's stories and truth, and fostering systems of care. This is sacred work that makes space for the spirit and shapes our UU faith.

The Regional Caucuses will happen simultaneously via our virtual Zoom room and caucuses will meet in breakout rooms with facilitators. Our agenda will center on relationship building, sharing your story, and checking in. We'll be focusing our discussion on the ways we are sustained and uplifted as Unitarian Universalists. This is a BIPOC-only program.

PROCESS OUT LOUD

We are sharing this Pastoral Message: Process Out Loud from Rev. John Crestwell, one of our DRUUMM Chaplain Team. Members seeking to connect with a chaplain, we are here for you.

I am Rev. John Crestwell, one of your chaplains this year. I serve at the UU Church of Annapolis in Maryland. I was called here in 2009 as the Associate Minister and was recently called as their "Minister of Equal Standing" and Executive. I am honored to serve this committed group of Unitarian Universalists.

I write to you today to let you know that I am here for you. I am a 20-year BIPOC UU and have experienced many highs and lows in life and ministry. I have stories to share and a good ear to listen to you; I am here for you as a "Spiritual Life Coach", mentor and supporter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Life is always stressful for POC but it has been especially trying for the last 16-months with the pandemic. One thing that I've learned is that self-care is not selfish. If we don't take care of ourselves, who will? I like to say that "fishing for the self" isn't selfish but is, in fact, your purpose for being here as a sentient being. To find the true-self we have to regularly reflect and take action again and again. Life is progress and process.

As it is said in hip hop, "Check yourself before you wreck yourself". So I am here if you need someone to process out loud with. I don't usually give advice without asking permission because I believe you know the answer. There is a higher-self in all of us that knows what's best! However, we all get stuck from time to time and need a little help getting unstuck. That's what I do. That's my ministry. And I'm here for you.

*Blessings,
Rev. John*



DRUUMM Chaplain Team

Please reach out to us if we can support you. .

<https://www.druumm.org/meet-our-chaplains/>

REMEMBERING OUR DIVINE SELF

DRUUMM and the UUA Office of Multicultural Ministries are hosting a two part workshop series centering BIPOC wellness and spiritual practice.

Remembering Our Divine Self is a four hour program led by facilitator and healer Noilyn Mendoza that is designed to re-reconnect us to our full bodies.

Monday October 4th and Monday October 11th, 2021

8:00 PM to 10:00 PM Eastern (5:00 PM Pacific)

Cost: Free for DRUUMM Members, \$25 USD for BIPOC Friends

For more information and registration visit www.druumm.org and click on "events" or contact dawn.druumm@gmail.com

Everyday our bodies are giving us signals for areas that are asking for more attention. Participants will learn the use of embodiment practices such as body scan, guided visualization, and breathwork. Together, we will listen to and harness our innate body wisdom.

A lot of our inner conflict or suffering comes from our parts not being heard or listened to. And what happens when that happens? They have to get louder, and sometimes that



REMEMBERING OUR DIVINE SELF

Noilyn Mendoza
Facilitator

Mon, Oct 4 8pm - 10pm ET
Mon Oct 18 8pm - 10pm ET

Workshop reserved for Black, Indigenous and People of Color

www.druumm.org

manifests as a feeling, or behavior, or even a physical symptom that will get so loud because it hasn't been paid attention to. It hasn't been given a voice. The more we ignore these unheard parts of us - the more amplified its pleas become. And eventually, it can even manifest physically or emotionally as an ailment or an injury, so that we have to listen to that accumulated, yet unanswered need.

Yet all of us have a known yet rarely tapped intelligence within us - our innate wisdom or intuition. Our trust in what we already know to be true. We have been taught not to trust this wisdom, outsource our intuition, and doubt our own. But the truth is that you are your own best expert. You carry with you the DNA, imprint of generations before you of pathfinders and way seekers. You are the authority of what your body, heart, and soul needs to realign, find joy, and heal.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

September 2	Indigenous/Native Caucus of DRUUMM
September 9	Member Orientation
September 14	Asian Pacific Islander Caucus
September 18	DRUUMM Regional Caucuses
September 21	DRUUMM Peer Network (local organizer)

OCTOBER

October 2	Latinx Caucus of DRUUMM
October 4 & 11	Remembering Our Divine Self BIPOC wellness workshop
October 10	Member Orientation
October 12	Asian Pacific Islander Caucus
October 14	Elder Spiritual Odyssey Public Premiere with Michelle Bentley
October 19	DRUUMM Peer Network (local organizers)
October 20	Pacific Cluster Monthly Gathering

NOVEMBER

November 7	Member Orientation
November 16	DRUUMM Peer Network with Paula Cole Jones
November 17 & December 2	Trauma Informed Organizing Workshop with Gabes Torres

See our events calendar at www.druumm.org



Spiritual Odyssey Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley

Thursday, September 30th, 2021
8:00 PM Eastern / 5:00 PM Pacific
Member-only RSVP at www.druumm.org

DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2020-2021

The DRUUMM Steering Committee is made up of members elected to three year terms at our annual meeting. For more information you can reach them at info@druumm.org.

- President **Ayanna Kafi Stringer**, Georgia
- Vice President **Mathew Taylor**, California
- Vice President **Dandilion Prinsloo**, Georgia
- Secretary **Sangye Hawke**, California
- Treasurer **Eric Huang**, Texas
- Communications Coordinator **Nicole Pressley**, Georgia
- GA Coordinator **Imari S. Nuyen-Kariotis**, California
- Outreach Co-Coordinator **Noel Burke**, Missouri
- Outreach Co-Coordinator **Paul Niyonzigiye**, Maine
- UUA Liaison **Michael J Crumpler**, New York



**MEMBER CHECK-IN:
HOW ARE FEELING
ABOUT UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISM?**

Sometimes feel like I'm on an emotional rollercoaster regarding Unitarian Universalism. I'm often offended or injured by the casual acceptance of white supremacy or the baffling perpetration of microaggressions by some white members of my congregation. At the same time, my life is enriched by the true friendships I have with other whites at my church. I'm disappointed by the rejection of the very existence of systemic racism by some, and I'm inspired by the personal and spiritual growth I see in others who choose to embrace anti-racism. I often don't feel welcomed at my church's social gatherings, but I show up anyway. Unitarian Universalism was founded on the sort of pluralism that this country needs right now. If we lean into our values and live our principles, we can lead the nation to a bright future. That gives me hope and sustains my faith.

- Michael Hornsby, Albany, NY

I'm currently feeling grateful to be a UU. This is because I choose to participate in the APIC SC & DRUUMM events. I left a racial justice committee at my church after 10 years, that I founded, because of the continued racism I experienced, being the only BIPOC on the committee. I'm so grateful that DRUUMM & APIC were there to hold me in a brave space, in this time, when I felt/feel frightened, due to continued hate fueled attacks on my people. I have hope and positive feelings for the future, as long as DRUUMM remains a vital part of the UU faith.

- Anonymous



The DRUUMM Beat Issue 22, 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

