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"YOU CAN COUNT ON THIS"

DRUUMM Public Worship May 4th, 2022



Faith can be both a guiding light and sustaining force throughout the course of one's life. Yet in a world that is all too cruel and harsh, faith can be twisted, becoming instead a tool that fosters both isolation and a sense of underwhelm. What do we do when this happens for us as Unitarian Universalists? Come, let us gather in the fortifying spirit of love made known in community as we remember ourselves, for ourselves, in the presence of all that we choose to name as Holy.

Join us for DRUUMM's annual Public Worship & Fundraiser on May 4th, 2022 at 8:00 PM with guest preacher Rev. Tyler Coles and musical artist Dr. Zanaida Robles. Save the date for this special virtual event that is open to all. For more information, including about co-sponsoring the event, please contact us at info@druumm.org.

EXPANDING THE 8TH PRINCIPLE CAMPAIGN

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

DRUUMM is engaging more deeply with members and Allies for Racial Equity to expand the number of UU congregations adopting the 8th Principle. As one of the first UU organizations to adopt the 8th Principle, DRUUMM members are increasingly working to educate and organize for congregational votes. The 8th Principle movement, developed by former DRUUMM President Paula Cole Jones in 2017, has already achieved 156 adoptions since launching the campaign in 2017. Leaders have a goal of adding another 100 by General Assembly 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA.

A small group of anti-racist organizers launched the 8th Principle campaign in an effort ground our faith’s action in clear values. DRUUMM issued a 2016 Call for Renewal on the 20th Anniversary of the Journey Towards Wholeness Resolution. One of the core observations in the generation since the significant 1997 Journey Towards Wholeness resolution that passed nearly unanimously at the General Assembly in Phoenix is that our

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Canadian Unitarian Council continue to struggle to center and support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in our faith. This is evidenced by a growing number of assessments: the more limited advancement opportunities for religious professionals of color; the 98% white racial demographics, DRUUMM chaplain requests to heal from the contradictions and wounds of oppression experienced in our UU spaces, and the reports of cultural appropriation and micro-aggressions for example.

Paula Cole Jones, who has been an anti-racism trainer for over 15 years, noted how persistently UUs believe they are being a “good UU” by following the 7 Principles without meaningfully addressing racism and other linked oppressions at the systemic level. Working with a white anti-racist organizer colleague Bruce Pollock-Johnson, she led a process to refine language to create the 8th Principle with

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activists in the Mid-Atlantic region and Bruce's home congregations the UU Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia became the first to adopt it.

Today, Paula and Bruce convene a 8th Principle learning community that is at the forefront of keeping the anti-racism/anti-oppression/multiculturalism work alive despite white backlash and the devolution of collective and intentional organizing such as the UUA ending the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee. Their monthly gatherings, alongside the work of Meadville-Lombard's Beloved Conversations program, keeps the spirit and strategy alive. This is crucial as oppression has a unique ability to evolve and adapt, making an ongoing space of reflection and analysis building an essential part of the change work.

DRUUMM recently organized a cohort of more than 20 members who participated in the UU Organizing School, with focus on moving the 8th Principle. Later this Spring, members will be working with UU Justice North Carolina to host a special forum for congregations in the largest US state without a single adoption. If you are interested in catalyzing adoption work

in your UU community, please reach out and let us know. We would love to connect and support you.

Resources:

- DRUUMM Call for Renewal: <https://www.druumm.org/our-history/druumm-call-for-renewal/>
- 8th Principle <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>
- 8th Principle Learning Community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity>
- Beloved Conversations: <https://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/beloved-conversations/>
- DRUUMM 8th Principle Cohort: Contact info@druumm.org and let us know

DRUUMM AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PORTLAND, OREGON

By Imari Nuyen-Kariotis, GA Coordinator



DRUUMM at the 2022 General Assembly in Portland and online. The DRUUMM Village space will begin during professional days and carry through the end of GA. It will be a space of sanctuary for healing, community, history and exploring. There will be daily offerings in the Village, with special events planned through out General Assembly. Holding space for #NapMinistry, Vespers, Ancestors and Family. We shall travel out of the Convention Center for a DRUUMM Picnic, and a DRUUMM Person of Color and Black Owned Pub/Restaurant Crawl. As we get closer we will be able to share the online schedule for those not traveling to Portland.

Stay connected via DRUUMM's membership email list (sign-up at druumm.org) and our Facebook Page. For more information please contact ga@druumm.org

THE ELDER SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY OF MEL HOOVER

DRUUMM members are invited to a unique and sacred gathering with the Rev. Mel Hoover who will be sharing his spiritual odyssey. We believe in the power of sharing, passing down wisdom, and connecting our generations. Join us for an intimate, BIPOC-only evening as we form a circle to hold and witness the stories of one of our elders. This program uplifts our value of history:



Mel Hoover

Mel is a 1968 graduate of Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in social welfare with a commitment to civil rights through the civil rights movement and to nonviolent change. He was inspired by the work of Martin Luther King, Jr., to create a beloved community as his ministry.

Mel served as a community organizer in Rochester NY for a decade leading efforts to integrate the public schools and founding the Neighborhood Street Academy for Students at Risk. Later he was the Executive Director of several ecumenical organizations and worked with the National Council of Churches. His service to Unitarian Universalism began with the Urban Church Coalition and the Black Concerns Working Group. In 1987 Mel joined the UUA staff as Urban and International Programs Director, then became Assistant to the President to advocate for racial inclusiveness.

THE ELDER SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY OF MEL HOOVER



Consciousness of History: *By keeping the written and oral histories of People of Color within UUism we are making sure that history can be accessible and helpful to new and old members. Recognizing our place in the larger stream of history and our role as history makers, we develop individual and collective investment in our storytelling. We thank and honor our elders and ancestors, passing on our legacy and lessons to future generations. – DRUUMM Values*

We are a community rich with stories of awe and stories of struggle. Experiences that have shaped and sharpened our beliefs and how we live in the world. In building on our values, including our value of being conscious of history, we are offering a new series of member events featuring an elder in our community who has graciously agreed to share their journey of faith as a Black, Indigenous and/or Person of Color in Unitarian Universalism.

Words of Familiarity

By Om Prakash

I.
I awakened to the kiss of sunshine.
The embrace of the Beloved ignites my passion to be a
wondrous being of light
and joy,
in a disenchanted world.

Singing to me, her three part song
cuts through the darkness like
like flashing, fire flies
filling frigid nights with a
warmth of familiarity
that feeds my famished, frenzied soul.

II.
I can see it in your eyes;
this power of life that sets the universe ablaze,
spins light and dark out of the nothingness,
initiates rapid movement out of stillness
and teaches you
and me,
how to dance with creation and creator.



continuation of **Words of Familiarity**

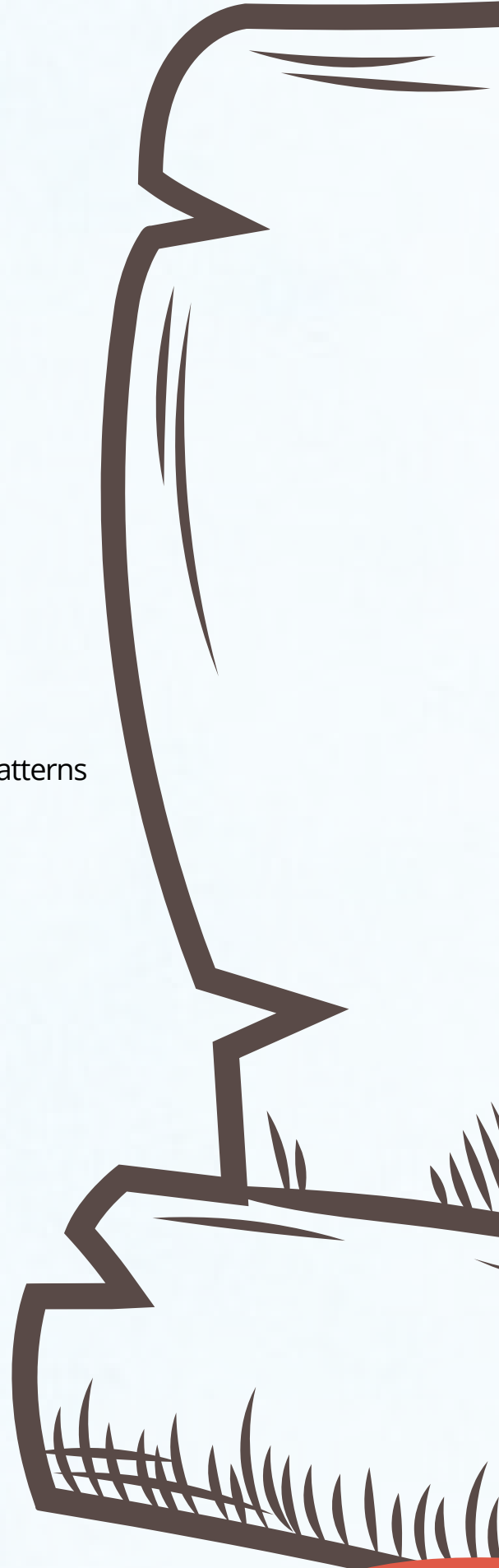
III

You stand perched before the universe,
your radiant beauty shifting in the colors and patterns
of the rainbow covered by that opaque mask,
the dull silver armor painted with pastels
and covered with tattoos to hide the fact
that it is just a metal shell covering the worship of ages at
the center of your being.

We dance, we live,
carrying out the roles created by the True Self,
to move this eternal soul through another world
of struggle and tragedy.

Like rivers of light we turn the darkness,
cover it in our brilliance, convert its molecular, sub-atomic patterns
to the motion that re-ignites the visible light and then
allows it to fall again back to
the stillness of darkness,
which is the womb of every thought,
feeling,
possibility that will ever exist in time and space.

Why else do we exist?
To learn to dance with the light and dark, Beloved
so when we return to that gentle good night
we will leave just a bit of our live
in this trouble world
like Jonnie Apple Seeds,
and will turn this old world of bitterness
and unnecessary, unnecessary, unnecessary violence
into a forest of love.



DRUUMM CULTURAL CAUCUSING: SATURDAY APRIL 30

We invite DRUUMM members to participate in our Spring 2022 Cultural Caucuses, an opportunity to come together as a full BIPOC community, and to meet in culturally specific caucuses. 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. These 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 cultural caucuses include African Descent, Latinx-La Familia, Arab-Middle Eastern-North African, Asian & Pacific Islander, Indigenous-Native, facilitated by DRUUMM members.

Date: Saturday, April 30
2022

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Eastern/10:00 AM
to 1:00 PM Pacific

Registration: www.druumm.org

**Free for Members. \$15 USD for
BIPOC friends.**

**Contact: Dawn Robinson
dawn.druumm@gmail.com**

We will gather as a whole community for the first 30 minutes before moving into virtual breakout rooms for each caucus. The caucus program will center relationship building and deeper reflection. We'll then reconvene as a full community to share highlights before closing out collectively. This is a BIPOC-only program.



**8TH
PRINCIPLE
EVENT**
for North Carolina
UU Congregations

Sunday, April 3rd at 8:00pm
With Special Guest, Paula Cole Jones
Co-Sponsored by UU Justice NC & DRUUMM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March

Mar 15 DRUUMM Peer Network

Mar 29 Elder Spiritual Odyssey of Rev. Mel Hoover

April

Apr 14 UU Principles Listening Session

Apr 19 DRUUMM Peer Network

Apr 30 Cultural Caucusing

Events are virtual unless otherwise noted. See our events calendar and registration information at www.druumm.org or contact dawn.druumm@gmail.com.

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 Niyonziye**, Maine
- UUA Liaison **Michael J Crumpler**, New York

UU PRINCIPLES LISTENING SESSION



DRUUMM invites members to attend a special listening session with Paula Cole Jones and Rev. Dr. Cheryl M. Walker on the Article II Commission and the current process of re-imagining our Unitarian Universalist Principles. Join us for this member-only gathering.

Paula is a former DRUUMM President and leader of the 8th Principle Campaign. Cheryl is a longtime member and minister in North Carolina, and former President of the UU Ministers Association.

WELCOME ESPERANZA

DRUUMM announces that Esperanza Garza-Danweber of Texas has joined the Steering Committee as Acting Vice-President, filling a vacant position.

Esperanza has served for 3 years as a member of the Organizing Project Advisory Committee and is a long-time lay leader and BIPOC group facilitator in her local congregation.



"I want to express how settled my heart is by welcoming my beloved friend, Esperanza, to the DRUUMM Steering Committee. I experience Esperanza as someone who will ask tough questions, push back when she sees a fault in logic, and add to collaboration with enthusiasm. I have witnessed her capacity for communal leadership at General Assembly, in countless community organizing meetings, and while collaborating on worship at her home congregation in Texas, where she has served as Worship Committee Chair.

While standing in the consistency of uncertainty I am warmed to be joined by someone who so gracefully embodies the work of DRUUMM as well as our collective vision of the future of UUism."

- Ayanna Kafi, DRUUMM President

We love you, Esperanza. Welcome.

DRUUMM ELECTION VOTING OPENS MAY 15

Our annual elections of members to serve on the DRUUMM Steering Committee are happening this spring. Voting will be opening in mid-May with results announced in mid-June during the UUA General Assembly in Portland and online. Candidates will be announced in the upcoming DRUUMM Beat Newsletter and via current active members. The DRUUMM Nominating Committee, convened by Rev. Sangye Hawke, our DRUUMM Secretary, has been assessing and recruiting candidates. Nominations for this year closed on February 28th, and we are grateful to the members who have expressed interest. The nominating committee includes Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, Isaac Castro, Ayanna Kafi, Rev. Sana Saeed, with staff support from Dawn Robinson and Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons.

NOTATIONS

- The DRUUMM Nominating Committee is hard at work talking with members about serving on the Steering Committee. Positions up for community election are: VP/President-Elect, Treasurer, GA Coordinator, Communications Coordinator. The deadline has passed for consideration this year, however please reach out if you are interested in serving in other leadership roles or are looking ahead to 2023.
- DRUUMM Chaplains received 44 requests for pastoral care in 2021. To connect with one of our clergy of color, members can reach out via our form on druumm.org or email chaplain@druumm.org
- Thank you to the over 50 members signed a care card for Dr. Mark Hicks who is recovering from a serious health issues. He is doing better and appreciates your love and support.
- Roddy Biggs our MDIV Volunteer will be wrapping up his service with DRUUMM this Spring. He has been working on our Elder Spiritual Odyssey series and supporting the DRUUMM Peer Network with Lia Nagase.
- Finding Our Way Home, the DRUUMM-inspired annual gathering of religious professionals of color is being held hybrid style with in-person activities in Long Beach CA this April.



The DRUUMM Beat Issue 26, 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

