



# THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

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## TELL ME ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GOD, GODS, OR NOT G\*D:

One of the blessings of Mathew P. Taylor, one of our members who served on the DRUUMM Steering Committee until his tragic passing last year, was their ministry with Covenant UU. This Earth Centered Ministry centering UU People of Color brought together for regular ritual and fellowship. A number of them came into DRUUMM, and shared their stories of finding a home in our faith thanks to the pagan groups in our congregations.


This Earth Centered Ministry centering UU People of Color brought together for regular ritual and fellowship. A number of them came into DRUUMM, and shared their stories of finding a home in our faith thanks to the pagan groups in our congregations. In these local and denominational spaces, there is a space for the spirit.

Not all DRUUMM members share these experiences. Many have confessed how being UU and a Person of Color is marked by immediate calls to church leadership and anti-racism organizing. Some have noted how the main time they are asked to be in worship is when it relates explicitly to their perceived or real ethnic and cultural background. For example leading Dia de los Muertos, MLK Sunday, Divali, and so on. It is complicated.



**DRUUMM  
FALL CAUCUS  
OCT 1st**  
a BIPOC-only Zoom event  
10 AM - 1 PM Pacific  
[tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1](https://tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1)



**CLICK TO RSVP** 

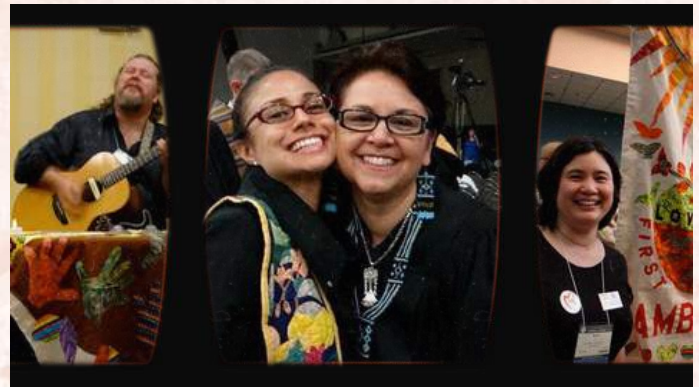


# FALL CAUCUS: OCT 1ST



Our Unitarian Universalist community is increasingly a multifaith space, emerging out of liberal christian traditions predominantly but not exclusively in Western contexts. In this dynamic and changing context, we each come from unique religious roots and lived experiences.

Our members have expressed a desire to deepen our grounding as Unitarian Universalists. We know each of us has a unique complexity, from our birth faith to our aspiring and living practice. We have shared interests in authentically living a lifelong UU journey, with some meaningfully sustaining a multireligious spiritual life, and/or seeking refuge and a new religious home from upbringings that we have left behind.



[\*\*CLICK TO RSVP\*\*](#)



These are the roots from which we invite DRUUMM members and interested BIPOC friends to participate in our Fall Caucus on Religious & Spiritual Journeys. This is an opportunity to connect with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Unitarian Universalism and explore, listen, and integrate new understandings of our individual and collective spiritual and religious journeys. We will caucus on the question “Tell me about you and your god, gods, or not g\*d” and in small groups organized as much as possible by the more particular religious identity you claim. Why are you UU? What is the culture and place of your personal faith journey? Our time together will include an opening in-gathering with a panel of Ministers of Color engaging in the caucus question followed by small groups of 3-5 people where you will self-select a facilitator, notetaker, and vibes/time observer. We will close with the purpose of notetakers sharing back and integrating our discussions as a whole. Join us for this sacred work that makes brave and safe space for the spirit and shapes our UU faith.

This is a BIPOC-only event and will be held virtually via Zoom. Please register at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) by September 28th, 2022. Interested people who self-identify as White are invited to engage with UU Allies for Racial Equity who host parallel programs, see [www.uuare.org](http://www.uuare.org) for registration information.

# MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

We come together, with family and roots from around the world. We are united in our vision of healing from oppression, self-determination, and the anti-racist, anti-oppressive transformation of Unitarian Universalism. We invite new and returning members to join us for a one hour member orientation that is an opportunity to learn more about the DRUUMM community and make new friends. This year we are grateful to have Ayanna Kafi, our former President facilitating these quarterly events.

Each session is approximately one hour and held via Zoom. We provide an overview, history, and have several interactive opportunities to share your story and build relationships. We kindly request that you RSVP online at least 2 days in advance of the dates.



## Registration Info

- Thursday, October 13th**  
8 PM ET via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-oct13](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-oct13)
- Wednesday, December 7th**  
8 PM ET via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-dec7](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-dec7)
- Thursday, February 16th**  
8 PM ET via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-feb16](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-feb16)
- Wednesday, April 26th**  
8 PM via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-apr26](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-apr26)



# 2022-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE

We welcome our new 2022-2023 Steering Committee who have been elected by our members at our June 2022 Annual Meeting or were appointed recently to fill unexpected vacancies. Look for updates here in the DRUUMM Beat and via our member communications on email and Facebook.



**Esperanza Garza-Danweber**  
Vice President & President-Elect



**Tomi Fatunde**  
1st Vice President



**Sangye Hawke**  
2nd Vice President



**Kate Goka**  
Treasurer



**Michelle Venegas-Matula**  
Secretary



**Verdis Robinson**  
GA Coordinator



**Noel Burke**  
Outreach



**Karin Lin**  
Communications



**Michael Crumpler**  
UUA Liason

# INSTALLATION CEREMONY

We are grateful to our members who are answering the call to leadership and service. DRUUMM warmly invites members and special guests to the Installation Ceremony of the 2022-2023 DRUUMM Steering Committee to be held virtually via Zoom.

Join us as we formally celebrate the covenantal relationship between our DRUUMM community and DRUUMM Steering Committee, honoring our new commitments as we weave a new shared ministry.



[CLICK TO RSVP](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-sept16)



This is a time where our theology is made real in relationship, where we recognize and hold sacred the intersection of individual, community, and the Spirit, a foundation of Unitarian Universalism.



# ELDER SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY: REV. MEL HOOVER

DELIVERED TO THE DRUUMM  
COMMUNITY

## ELDER SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY

REV. MEL HOOVER



PREMIERES ON YOUTUBE  
SEPT 18TH, 7PM

DRUUMM - BIPOC UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST MINISTRIES



On March 2022, DRUUMM members were invited to a unique and sacred gathering with the Rev. Mel Hoover who shared his spiritual odyssey.

We believe in the power of sharing, passing down wisdom, and connecting our generations.

Join us as we make this video open to the public, on an intimate evening in Sept. 18th, 7pm as we virtually form a circle to hold and witness the stories of one of our elders.

**WATCH HERE**



# ATLANTA BIPOC COMMUNITY MEETUP



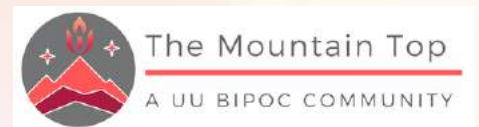
Your DRUUMM Steering Committee is hosting an in-person BIPOC Community MeetUp in MidTown Atlanta, Georgia as part of their weekend retreat. Come meet our leadership and break bread together.

[CLICK TO RSVP](#)



## MOUNTAIN TOP KICKOFF

**In grief and in joy: our living, loving, healing community**



Welcome, BIPOC UUs! We invite you to kick off the church year at the Mountain Top. Join us as we explore the interlinked grief and joy BIPOC UUs hold. We will celebrate our resilience in community and rededicate ourselves to taking up the time, space, and joy that is our spiritual birthright!

The Mountain Top is open to all UU and UU-adjacent BIPOC folks. We meet on 2nd Sundays for worship and 4th Sundays for community conversation, via zoom. Join us for Ingathering on September 11 at 5:30 PDT/ 6:30 MDT/ 7:30 CDT/ 8:30 EDT. We're looking forward to knowing you!

## **Visit [druumm.org](https://druumm.org) for the latest calendar**

### **Installation Ceremony of the DRUUMMM Steering Committee 2023 | Thursday, September 15th**

8:30 PM ET via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-sept15sc](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-sept15sc)

### **Elder Spiritual Odyssey - Rev. Mel Hoover Sunday, September 18th**

premieres in YT: 7 PM ET, [tinyurl.com/druumm-eldermh](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-eldermh)

### **DRUUMM Fall Caucus: Spiritual & Religious Journeys Saturday, October 1st**

10 AM ET via Zoom, [tinyurl.com/druumm-oct1](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-oct1)

### **Atlanta BIPOC Community Meetup Saturday, November 12th**

Atlanta, Georgia, [tinyurl.com/druumm-nov12](https://tinyurl.com/druumm-nov12)



# MEMBERSHIP



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](http://www.druumm.org/membership) or contact Dawn Robinson, Administrator at [dawn.druumm@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.druumm@gmail.com)



# NOTATIONS



- Our end of year balance statement for DRUUMM is just over \$300,000, putting us in the strongest financial position in history. Part of this is due to increased giving from members and our Public Worship that had over 50 sponsoring congregations, and reduced spending during the pandemic.
- The Steering Committee will be meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 11-14, 2022. The visit will include time for strategic planning, a Community MeetUp on Saturday November 12th in-person with members in the area, and a vigil at the site of one of the Atlanta Spa Shootings that took the lives of mostly Asian American women in 2021.
- DRUUMM has a new accounting team - Simple Office Solutions. Welcome to Libby & Awilda.
- General Assembly will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in June 2023. If you're interested in volunteering and helping out, please contact our new GA Coordinator Verdis Robinson via [info@druumm.org](mailto:info@druumm.org).
- DRUUMM will be convening a community listening session on race/ethnicity data collection in our congregations and UUA by early 2023. Stay tuned for date and details.
- The Unitarians in the United Kingdom are organizing a People of Color caucus for the first time in history led by Rev. Winnie Gordon.
- We welcome submissions by and for DRUUMM members. Please contact [editor@druumm.org](mailto:editor@druumm.org) with your idea and why and how it relates to our DRUUMM community.

## The DRUUMM Beat Issue 1, Volume 3

Editor Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons

Editorial Board: Karin Lin

For inquiries, please email [editor@druumm.org](mailto: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](http://www.druumm.org)

