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MULTIRACIAL & FAMILIES OF COLOR



When we come together as DRUUMM, one recurring theme that emerges is the concept of family. We engage in deep conversations about our own families, our chosen families, and the beautiful complexities that come with them. We commemorate milestones and support each other through times of loss. Our DRUUMM Gatherings foster an intergenerational spirit that embodies our sense of community and care. We gain aunts and uncles, primos and *lolas*. We share a common bond as individuals and families impacted by racism. We listen to expressions of doubt, stories of exclusion, and a yearning for our liberal religious community to be meaningful and relevant to our extended family.

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UPCOMING FALL BIPOC-ONLY EVENTS

2023

August 23 8 PM ET	Steering Committee Installation Ceremony,
September 15-17	Gathering at Murray Grove, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey
September 19	Gathering in Denver with The Mountain Top
September 22	Gathering in New Orleans
October 25 8 PM ET	Elder Spiritual Odyssey with Taquiena Boston
November 4 1-4 PM ET	Fall Caucus: Multiracial & Families of Color

2024

March 13 - 15 2024	Multiracial & Families of Color Retreat. UBarU Camp and Retreat Center, Texas
April 20, 2024	Spring Caucus



RSVP

druumm.org/events



MULTIRACIAL & FAMILIES OF COLOR

In our congregations our presence continues to grow. We recognize the importance of engaging young people of color and the value of mentorship. We understand the significance of creating spaces where both our beloved white family members and people of color can connect and grow. We actively seek understanding and practices that strengthen our interconnected faith and family systems.

Twenty-five years ago, DRUUMM organizers advocated for more attention to Multiracial and Families of Color. Through discussions, workshops, and retreats, they contributed to the transformative process known as the Journey Towards Wholeness. Although the strategic coordination of

the Journey Towards Wholeness initiative has diminished over time, the ideas and principles remain relevant. We applaud the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School and the UUA who have continued to envision and develop vital resources and programs in this regard.

Looking ahead this year, DRUUMM is planning to focus more of our programs along the theme of Multiracial and Families of Color. We'd love to hear from you about what questions, concerns, experiences, hopes and challenges come up for you and your family. Reach out and let us know - info@druumm.org and join us for our Fall Caucus on Saturday, November 4th from 1:00-4:00 PM Eastern.

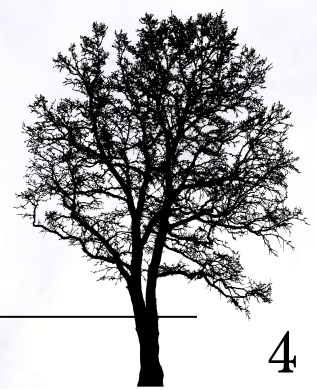


EMBRACING DEEPER MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

On May 7, DRUUMM member Marianne Jew and her home congregation (East Suburban UU Church), friends, and family covenanted together and celebrated her new role as a Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM). The Commissioned Lay Ministry program is offered through the Central East Region (CER), “... designed to help lay leaders take their ministry and service to a deeper level.” CLMs study and train in many areas, while focusing on those that meet needs of their home congregation and the CLM’s calling and strengths. Marianne discovered DRUUMM and BIPOC community in 2020 after finding UU in 2002 while seeking a RE program for her young kids.



These sincere and deep community experiences, all via Zoom, changed her calling and approach to what she wanted to offer to her home congregation of 35, as well as her personal relationship to UU as a faith and religious community.



EMBRACING DEEPER MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

When she started the CLM program in 2019, Marianne's agreement with ESUUC and the then quarter-time minister was to grow in offering shared ministry for adult RE, worship, and to build relations with other faith communities nearby. GA2020 was her first experience with GA and only happened because it was offered on-line. It was the first time she met BIPOC UUs. A new world opened up, with new awareness, learning, tears, and amazing sensations of connection. After meeting and getting to know BIPOC UUs – their experiences as UUs, their perspectives on UUism, their personal ways of being and “doing” UU – she recognized the call to connect in small group and 1:1 settings both on Zoom and on-site, and that it was OK to do heart-ministry more than head-ministry.

She is at the start of a 3-year covenant with her now lay-led congregation. Marianne offers multi-platform Spiritual Exploration opportunities to all UUs who have internet/Zoom access. She, DRUUMM member Leilani Davenberry, and 2 CLMs created “Let's Build a Multi-Platform Community of Communities” on-demand presentation for GA2023, which invites UUs to co-create communities without geographic boundaries. Her current commitment to this faith is to provide nourishment and healing, to build Beloved Community, and to cherish and co-nourish BIPOC communities that have given her so much.



DRUUMM VILLAGE REFLECTION

*By Karin Lin,
Communications
Coordinator*



*photo credits:
Nancy Pierce / UUA*

There is nothing like a DRUUMM gathering at the General Assembly with dozens of BIPOC UUs to counteract the loneliness that many of us feel in our home congregations at being the only person of color, or one of only a few. The joy was palpable throughout the numerous events organized by DRUUMM GA coordinator Verdis LeVar Robinson, including opening and closing worship and identity- and regional-based caucusing. Our DRUUMM booth in the Exhibit Hall was ably arranged and staffed by DRUUMM Administrator Jolanda Walter, serving as an entry and welcome point for prospective and current DRUUMM members alike.

The DRUUMM Annual Meeting honored new and outgoing Steering Committee members, including outgoing Outreach Coordinator Noel Burke, incoming 1st Vice President Tomi Fatunde, incoming 2nd Vice President Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel, incoming secretary Michelle Venegas-Matula, and incoming Outreach Coordinator Nico van Ostrand.

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti received the Mel Hoover Award, granted to a DRUUMM member who has made outstanding contributions to the community.

DRUUMM VILLAGE @ GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In general GA business, the major items of discussion were changes to Article II in the UUA bylaws, where currently the Principles and Sources are enumerated, as well as a business resolution for complete fossil fuel divestment and reparations brought by UU young adults. Delegates voted to continue the multi-year conversation on Article II revision, and although the business resolution did not pass, UUs affirmed the need to continue pushing forward on the issues highlighted in the resolution.

The final highlight was witnessing the installation of Rev. Sofía Betancourt as the first out queer individual and the first woman of color elected as UUA President. DRUUMM members waved purple bandanas in a rousing show of support and excitement.

Next year's General Assembly will be completely virtual. Stay tuned for opportunities to gather both online and in person to experience GA with DRUUMM!



photo credits: John Benford / UUA

"When I say that love is the center of our faith, that means I am committing to loving each one of you every day . . . for the next six years and beyond."

—Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt

DRUUMM VILLAGE APPRECIATIONS

Appreciations to our members and volunteers for all their contributions this week at General Assembly. We have had an incredible week of connecting and faithfully becoming. Shoutout to Verdis LeVar Robinson our GA Coordinator!

Special thanks to those behind-the-scenes:

Jolanda Walter and Ethan Deichler for AV and Tech.

Caucus facilitators including Joy Messinger, QuianaDenae Perkins, David Yamashita, Tomi Fatunde, Esperanza Garza, Clyde Grubbs, Jake Hearan, Summer Albayati, Angeline Jackson, Erol de los Santos.

Shannon Harper and Anna Bethea of the UUA for setting up a beautiful Art Corner in our DRUUMM Village space.

Noel Burke and Sangye Hawke, our virtual facilitators.

Kirk Freeman, Elka Carrier Ladd and our Allies for Racial Equity for their ushering and concurrent programs for White Allies

☆ and all our worship, music and steering committee leaders!

ANNUAL MEETING

84 members joined online and in-person for our Annual Meeting. We honored ancestors, milestones and welcomed new leadership. Grateful for our community and we look forward to build with you.



FAITHFULLY BECOMING WITH DRUUMM



Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti preaching the Sunday Service at General Assembly in his hometown of Pittsburgh PA

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, alongside Rev. Danielle Di Bona and Dr. Janice Johnson, three past Presidents of DRUUMM, preached a beautiful gathering was attended by over 4,000 people both in-person and online.

We also honored him, as a longtime DRUUMM member and leader who has served with our Youth and Young Adults ministries, as President with our Steering Committee, and as Lead Chaplain. He is Senior Minister of our First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Rev. Danielle Di Bona also presented him the Melvin A Hoover Beloved Community Award. We extend our joy and heartfelt thanks to Rev. Manish for a generation of service to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. You have been a model of kindness, solidarity and inspiration for a better world.

REV. DR. SOFÍA BETANCOURT IS ELECTED UUA PRESIDENT



Rev. Sofía Betancourt, a womanist theologian, ethicist, and minister, has been officially installed as the 10th president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on June 25. With an overwhelming 95.5% of the vote in an uncontested election, Betancourt makes history as the first openly queer person and first woman of color to lead the faith tradition. Her presidency will span a six-year term, bringing a wealth of experience as a national UUA leader for over two decades.

Born to parents from Panamá and Chile, Betancourt's journey within the UUA began long before assuming the presidency. While her predecessor, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, was the first woman elected to the UUA presidency,

Betancourt holds the distinction of being the first woman to officially hold the title. In 2017, she took on the role of interim co-president following the resignation of Rev. Peter Morales, who stepped down amidst controversy surrounding racial disparities in UUA hiring practices.

Rev. Frederick-Gray expressed her excitement for Betancourt's leadership, emphasizing the theological depth and moral clarity she brings to the role.

Betancourt's ministerial experience extends to UU congregations in California and Connecticut, and she has held significant positions within the UUA, including serving as the director of the Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns.

REV. DR. BETANCOURT IS ELECTED UUA PRESIDENT CONTINUED

With a doctorate in religious ethics and African American studies from Yale University, Betancourt's recent engagement as a resident scholar with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee further demonstrates her commitment to advancing human rights.

Betancourt's approach to leadership encompasses a strong pastoral presence, particularly during times of collective trauma. She emphasizes the importance of fostering a trauma-informed, caring, and inclusive environment within faith communities. Betancourt's vision for her presidency centers around cultivating a space where individuals can explore their faith and utilize their reactions constructively, guided by empathy and understanding.

Assuming the presidency amidst ongoing changes within the UUA, Betancourt recognizes the evolving identity of the faith tradition. Her presentation and diverse leadership for young people.

The Pew Religious Landscape Study highlights a notable shift, with a decrease in the proportion of Unitarian and other liberal faiths identifying as white. Longtime UUA members have witnessed a considerable diversification within the faith tradition, which aligns with the UUA's increased emphasis on anti-racism efforts since Morales' resignation.

Rev. John Buehrens, former UUA president, eagerly anticipates Betancourt's leadership, recalling her wisdom and empathic qualities during their time together at Starr King School for the Ministry. Reflecting on her historic election, Betancourt stresses the importance of representation and diverse leadership for young people. Emphasizing the significance of centering frontline communities and amplifying their voices in justice work, she aims to align the UUA's leadership with the values and expectations of Unitarian Universalists.

Betancourt's inauguration as the 10th UUA president marks a pivotal moment for the faith tradition, ushering in a new era of leadership that embraces diversity and inclusivity.

MEMBERS CORNER: "I COME FROM" POETRY SERIES

I come from three generations of Chinese immigrants,

From the land of dry chaparral, and stunning Pacific Ocean

From story unfolding, stories listened to and received,

stories unwritten and still expanding.

- Rev. Christina Shu

I come from a tropical sun and northern winters,

from rosaries and holy water.

I come from many places forgotten and remembered.

-Rose Barreto

I come from the side of the street between Hong Kong and China,

from biological parents unknown,

from the dawn of a new day for a new family in paradise. - Lori Lai



DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2023-2024

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 Esperanza Garza-Danweber, Texas
- 1st Vice President, Tomi Fatunde, Texas
- 2nd Vice President Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel, California
- Secretary Michelle Matula-Venegas, Texas
- Treasurer Kate Goka, California
- Communications Coordinator Karin Lin, Massachusetts

- GA Coordinator Verdis Robinson, Vermont
- Outreach Coordinator Nico Van Ostrand, Missouri
- UUA Liaison Rev. Michael J Crumpler, New York

ex-officio

- Consulting Minister Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Oregon
- Lead Chaplain Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Michigan

BULLETIN BOARD



Notations

- Amplify your BIPOC-led congregational service at druumm.org/worshiptogether
- 105 members and BIPOC Friends participated in DRUUMM Village @ General Assembly.
- DRUUMM has established its first-ever financial reserve with \$150,000, our approximate annual budget.
- Rev. Claudia Jimenez of North Carolina will be joining the Chaplain Team.
- The Steering Committee is envisioning a continental conference in 2024.
- Our DRUUMM Slack continues to grow as a member discussion space.
- GA 2024 will be all-virtual. Send us your suggestions for the type of programming you would be interested in!

JOIN A DRUUMM
BOOK CLUB

Several members coming out of General Assembly are hoping to start a DRUUMM Book Club for the coming year. What books would you love to discuss with fellow BIPOC UU?


Interest Survey by Aug 1



Have you served on your church board?

DRUUMM is organizing a
CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENTS/BOARD CAUCUS

Hosted by James Coomes,
Neighborhood Church
Pasadena



DIVERSE &
REVOLUTIONARY
UU MULTICULTURAL
MINISTRIES

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For inquiries, please email editor@druumm.org

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