

Report of UUA Trustees
Ministerial Fellowship Committee
Nov/Dec 2006 Meeting * Oakland, California

While much of the rest of the nation was having snow storms, the members of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee met on the “Sunny side of the Bay” in Oakland, California, in a hotel new to us (chosen for meeting our requests for physical accessibility).

Interviewed for Preliminary Fellowship

We saw twenty candidates, from nine different theological schools (7 from Meadville/Lombard, 6 from Starr King, 7 from NUUTS). We awarded TEN “1s” and SIX “2s”(hurray!) - people who are cleared for fellowship providing contingencies are met. Three individuals received a “3”, which means we’d like to see them again following some more work. We also gave one person a “4”, which means discouraging this person to continue.

Two of the candidates seen this meeting are men; two of the women identify as people of color. They range in age from 30 to 64 (five 30-somethings, ten in their forties, and five over fifty).

Fellowship Status

- * We read and discussed renewal forms submitted by those ministers in first, second, and third stages of Preliminary Fellowship.
- * We heard the report of the Executive Committee of a number of matters being handled in confidence, concerning complaints about ministers’ conduct.
- * We accepted the resignation from fellowship of David Ord.

Process Review

We also considered a number of matters concerning MFC Rules, Policies, “ways” and our process.

- * Two members of the UUA Board of Review (Sylvio Nardoni and Bob Bacon) visited with us to discuss a memo they prepared with recommendations for improvements in our procedures of receiving and processing complaints. We will consider their recommendations in further depth at our March meeting.

We are also reviewing and clarifying the process by which the MFC and the MPL staff will work together in the matter of handling complaints.

- * In the MFC’s continuing efforts to deepen our understanding of race and class, we discussed results of a survey of the MFC members’ experience, training, and needs in developing AR/AO/MC competencies. We committed to ongoing continuing education at all our meetings, and plan to schedule a day-long session in ‘08 when new members join the committee. In March, we will view the DVD on class “People Like Us” (Paula Cole Jones gave the Board a peek at this in October).

- * We continued a review of the MFC Rules and Policies, as well as the UUA By-laws which concern the MFC. It is the hope of chair Jory Agate to finish the review at the MFC March meeting, in time for review by the UUA Board, and presentation to the

UUMA in June. While many of the changes are for consistency and clarity only, there are some which are substantive and will deserve the attention of those two bodies.

Adoption of New MFC Policy

For the Board's information, the MFC voted to make an addition to its Policies, #39:

“When a minister is convicted of an offense involving substance abuse, the minister will be referred to the Professional Development Director of MPL, and expected to comply with the MPL's Alcohol and Drug Addiction Protocol. The MFC must receive reports from the minister and the Professional Development Director for three years following the offense on the minister's status in complying with the Protocol”

Board Action Needed in April

These have been discussed and voted upon by the MFC, and will come with finalized word edits following the March meeting.

- A. Amendment to MFC Rule 10, to remove the requirement for a college degree or its equivalent.
- B. Amendment to MFC Rule 11, to clarify the policies concerning intern supervisors.