

To: Gini Courter

From: Denny Davidoff

CC: Fifth Principle Task Force

Date: September 23, 2009

Re: Regionalization and the BOT

I'm sorry you missed our conversation with Tim Brennan on September 15th. We went round and round and round again trying to figure out a formula by which the UUA could fully fund biennial Delegate Assembly participants from Fair Share congregations or even provide each of them with a \$500 subsidy check to be spent however they saw fit. Tim was engaged and helpful and stayed with us until, feeling guilty about what was on his desk back at "25", I kind of, sort of threw him out.

Here was the "big idea" that finally came to all of us from all this funding conversation: if the Board of Trustees went to regionalization sooner than later, thus cutting back its size and the amount of money it takes to fund its meetings and GA presence, and the Biennial Delegate Assembly were run on a truly regional basis, there would be enough money for funding the delegates (at least the \$500 subsidy) and a greater coherence of governance, including the 100 at-large delegates chosen by five regions we are planning for.

Someone, was it Mark Gibbons or Barbara Prairie, commented: The Interdependent Web of UUA Governance.

We would like you to ask the BOT to think about this interdependence and, specifically, the question of whether we can realistically improve UUA governance with regard to changes to the GA without simultaneously addressing the other governance issues the Association faces: BOT size, efficacy of 19 District boards and assemblies, and the money it takes to keep these enterprises going.

This dilemma will surely be part of our January report. (1) Our central recommendation will require financing. (2) The money is trapped in the present governance system. (3) To change part of the system may necessitate changing all of the system.

We offer these words by the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons to spark your conversation:

"We proclaim a saving message for the world;

Can that message save ourselves?

Until we establish institutions that are places of health,

Why should anyone listen to our advice?"