



Report from the UU Women's Federation: GA 2010

... advancing justice for women and promoting their spiritual growth

This is my last report to the General Assembly, as my term as UUWF president ends at the close of this GA. When I first agreed to take on this office, I couldn't even imagine myself in the position, never mind my term coming to an end. I am so very proud of the accomplishments of the many women who have served as UUWF board members during the past six years: Nancy Van Dyke, Arlene Johnson, Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Barbara Prairie, Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Mary Mercier, Luz Bravo-Gleicher and Rev. Marti Keller.

Looking ahead, our board met in Boston in March and discussed just what success would look like for our new UUWF leadership. We are aware of both UUWF's 120 years of history, honoring all the women who have led and served, and we also look to a future of new ideas that will bring this UUA associate organization to a new level. We are embracing new cyber-technology to assist us with regular, strategic communication with both our own membership and with the wider community.

This same technology will also make fundraising more effective and targeted. We are already planning a greater presence in social marketing arenas with the initiation of a new UUWF [Facebook](#) page in order to attract more "Fans," with regularly refreshed postings. Soon we'll begin hosting discussions on a variety of topics (including one for congregational women's groups), and we are investigating the possibilities that blogging might provide. This will create great opportunities for us to share the exciting things we are doing on behalf of women and girls.

While we realize the potential of all that new technology, we also value the more personal, one-on-one promotion of our work. We will encourage this effort by recruiting and supporting congregational UUWF Ambassadors who will be available to speak at local, district or other UU gatherings, using our "UUWF in a Box" as a promotional tool. With the resources offered by our board and three funding panel members, we plan to take advantage of the many skills these talented women offer.

The UUWF has three incredible funding programs – [Equity and Justice](#), [Margaret Fuller](#), and [Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley](#). We will do a better job of disseminating the good news about our funded work by including website links to the “products” of our grants (resources linkage) and more online reports about programs and projects upon completion. We continue to equalize funding of our Margaret Fuller Grants Program for Religious Feminisms, bringing its funding level in line with that of our Equity and Justice grants, and we want to increase awareness and support for our Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley grants to aspirants/candidates to our professional UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.

And, finally, “what would success look like,” includes a financial portfolio that weathered reversals and plateaus resulting from the recession. This will be accomplished by working with our financial advisors to insure a prudent and forward-looking portfolio.

We will also continue the quality women’s programming we present at each General Assembly. Our events this GA week include a one-woman dramatic presentation honoring the 200th anniversary of Margaret Fuller’s birth: “Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller,” written and performed by Laurie James. Author Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker (*Prophetic Sisterhood*) will present a workshop focused on empowering women as agents of social change – a schedule of our events appears at the end of this report.

We will also honor Dr. Tucker with our [Ministry to Women Award](#) – given most years SINCE 1974 at General Assembly to an individual or organization that has ministered to women in an outstanding manner. We will present the award to her at our Margaret Fuller Tea on Thursday (see schedule for details). Reservations are required, but there’s still time to [register for this event](#).

As I began this report, I told you it was my last to you. But I am not the only woman leaving the UUWF Board. Catherine Onyemelukwe, our Vice President/ Development, left the board in March to take on a new position as president of the UU United Nations board, and Luz Bravo-Gleicher will complete her service as Vice President/Funding Programs at the end of this General Assembly. I am extremely grateful to both and know that they continue their support and service to the denomination.

I am so pleased to introduce you to the new UUWF Trustees: Kirstie Lewis of Bellevue, WA, is our incoming Vice President/Communications, and Terry Davis, Atlanta, GA, our Vice President/Development. We expect soon to fill our one remaining position – Vice President/Funding Programs.

And the extra special good news: our new UUWF President is Rev. Marti Keller, minister on staff at the UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA (I have attached a brief bio so you can more fully appreciate our excitement). As I have said to others on many occasions, I truly believe Marti will bring the Women’s Federation to a new level of vitality, advancing our mission in ways I can only imagine.

It is always exciting and energizing to gather with other committed UUs at General Assembly. The Women's Federation welcomes your participation in any or all of our programs and, more importantly, please become a member so that women and girls throughout the world will feel your presence, your support, your care. Together, if we can make even one life more tolerable, help even one woman to have a better life, assure even one child the possibility of realizing his or her dream. Please join me in making dreams come true.

All my best,

Linda Lu Burciaga

Linda Lu Burciaga, President



Outgoing UUWF President Linda Lu Burciaga (left) with her successor, Rev. Marti Keller.

Rev. Marti Keller is on staff at the UU Congregation of Atlanta, focusing on social justice, denominational work, small group ministry, pastoral care, lay ministry and adult education. She preaches regularly, conducts rites of passage, including weddings and memorials, and serves on the Executive Team. She has been both a parish and community minister, working with congregations in the Mid-South for the past decade.

Prior to her ordination as a minister, she worked with several non-profit social change organizations and, for more than 20 years, worked as an arts and cultural critic and columnist for daily, weekly and monthly publications in the San Francisco Bay Area.

As virtually a lifelong UU, her lay experience includes serving on religious education and social action committees for several congregations; teaching religious education; being a denominational representative and General Assembly delegate, and being selected as one of the original lay ministers for UUCA.

UU Women's Federation at General Assembly 2010

On Thursday, June 24

MEN, WOMEN, AND MARGARET FULLER

A solo dramatic presentation by author/actress Laurie James

Celebrate Fuller's 200th birthday by witnessing this passionate portrayal of her life and work.

2:45-4 pm – Minneapolis Convention Center – 200 ABIJ

NO SILENT WITNESS: A WEB OF EMPOWERING CONVERSATION

With Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker, author of "Prophetic Sisterhood" and "No Silent Witness"

Learn how NoSilentWitness.org helps empower women as agents of feminist transformation.

1-2 pm – Minneapolis Convention Center – M100 GH

FUNDING FOR UU WOMEN'S WORK

With Luz Bravo-Gleicher and UUWF grant recipients.

Find out how the UUWF's funding programs can help with 1) social justice projects directly affecting women and girls; 2) work focusing on UU religious feminisms; and 3) general support of aspirants/candidates for the UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.

9-10:15 am – Minneapolis Convention Center – M100 GH

Also on Thursday: UUWF will present its **Ministry to Women Award** to Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker at a tea beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the Hilton Hotel. Space is limited at this private event – if you are interested in attending, contact Ellen Spencer in the UUWF Office by June 15 or go to www.uuwf.org/tea.html

On Saturday, June 26

WOMEN – IDENTITY BASED GROUP OR HALF THE WORLD?

With the UUWF Board

Come and explore this fascinating topic in small group discussion.

4 p.m. – Hilton Marquette I