

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua  
Denominational Connections Committee  
Annual Report  
June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Members: Susan Chadwick; Mary Licking, Chair; John Sanders.

Budget: Zero (0) dollars

UU Nashua was represented by the maximum number of lay delegates it was allowed, seven, at the 2011 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (UUA GA) held June 22-26 at Charlotte, North Carolina. The seven delegates were comprised of five onsite (live) delegates and two off-site delegates. UU Nashua was represented by the following live delegates: Joan Connacher, Gail Donohue, Ellen Fisher, Kathy Fletcher, and John Sanders. Joan Connacher transported the UU Nashua banner to North Carolina and Ellen Fisher carried it in the banner parade. Serving as off-site delegates to the 2011 UUA GA were Mary Licking and Sylvia Lundberg.

The 2011 meeting was a pioneering full-scale test operation of off-site participation in the UUA GA. While live delegates participated in Charlotte, North Carolina, the off-site delegates participated in real time for the same meeting using a broadband internet connection, voting software they downloaded, and landlines or cell phones. Frank Grossman's photo of UU Nashua's off-site delegates flanking the UU Nashua banner was used in the GA virtual banner parade.

John Sanders served as a member of the Nominating Committee of the Northern New England District (NNED). John Sanders finished his term as President of the UUA District Presidents Association and presided at their meeting held in conjunction with the UUA GA in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was a member of the Bass Section of the UUA GA Sunday morning choir.

After the 2011 UUA GA, articles about it appeared in the UU Nashua newsletter two months in a row, the first one authored by Ellen Fisher and the second by Mary Licking. The 2012 UUA GA was the subject of an article in the UU Nashua newsletter in December 2011. A March UU Nashua newsletter article discussed the 2012 NNED Spring Conference at North Conway, NH. The 2012 NNED Conference, the 2012 UUA GA, the NNED Chalice Lighter program, and the Denominational Connections Committee were all publicized at a table during coffee hour after the worship service on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In some cases the conversations arising from that effort required follow-up. Those conversations were continued on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Committee provided an information table at the UU Nashua Open House Sunday that was held on April 15, 2012.

Three UU Nashua members represented the congregation as delegates at the NNED Annual Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Mary Licking, John Sanders, and Henry Zalman. The latter two members attended both days of the NNED Spring Conference, April 13<sup>th</sup>

and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. John Sanders served as host at the Universalist Heritage Foundation booth. Mary Licking led a lunch table talk on the subject of fundraising. At the NNED Annual Meeting there were reports on steps being taken to increase efficiency. The NNED is the result of the Northeast District and the New Hampshire – Vermont District merging in July 2008. That merger continues to save money. There are districts in other parts of the country currently undergoing mergers. Additionally, there is a regionalization movement within the UUA. Informally, the NNED has listened to other districts that have participated in regionalization activities and is trying to learn more in an effort to decide whether regionalization has potential to help the NNED in providing services to congregations and in other ways. Co-employment is a method being used to share costs and staff. Three of the NNED staff members are co-employed by the UUA, with both NNED and the UUA paying part of their salaries. To reduce travel, the NNED is open to conducting meetings electronically when appropriate.

Under policy governance, it is the job of the Committee to recommend delegates to represent UU Nashua at the UUA GA and at the UUA NNED Annual Meeting. The Committee approved the delegates discussed above regarding those meetings. The Committee also approved John Sanders as a live delegate to represent UU Nashua at the June 2012 UUA GA in Phoenix, Arizona and Mary Licking and Sylvia Lundberg as offsite delegates. The delegate credential packets for the NNED Annual Meeting were sent to last year's UU Nashua clerk. Thankfully, they were brought to the church office in time for the Committee to meet the deadline. Sherri Woolsey, the UU Nashua volunteer coordinator, telephoned the NNED asking that, in the future, such mailings be sent to the church office. The NNED agreed to make the change.

For several years in a row, UU Nashua has been a UUA Fair Share congregation. Fair Share congregations with a membership the size of UU Nashua paid \$56 per member to the UUA in 2011. For 2011-2012, the Fair Share rate is \$58 per member. The Fair Share program is one way congregations can support the UUA.

Mary Licking attended the first session of Harvest the Power, a leadership workshop of the Northern New England District (NNED) of the UUA that was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Crawford Notch, NH. She registered for the Spring 2012 Harvest the Power workshop to complete the activity, but the registration was nullified. The District did not receive enough registrations to hold the workshop and extended an invitation to apply for the Fall 2012 workshop. Ellen Fisher, President, UU Nashua, graduated from Harvest the Power in December, 2011, reflecting credit upon the NNED, UU Nashua, and herself.

As seen on the website of the NNED of the UUA Congregational News (accessed November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011): "In the early morning hours of June 6<sup>th</sup> our sister Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick Maine experienced a devastating fire at the rear of their sanctuary." At the Annual Meeting of UU Nashua on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, there was a collection basket at the rear of the UU Nashua sanctuary for members to contribute to the Brunswick UU Fire Fund. Jennifer Morton transported the collection to UU Brunswick, Maine soon thereafter. That church was also designated the first NNED Chalice Lighter

grant recipient of 2011 – 2012. In a November 2011 letter, the NNED Chalice Lighter Committee related that construction of a new church building for the UU Brunswick, Maine congregation is being planned and the architectural firm involved has been instructed to follow green building principles in the church design. The final NNED Chalice Lighter grant recipient of 2011-2012 was just named: Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine. The Augusta congregation is seeking to increase the hours for their religious exploration director from part-time to full-time employment. UU Nashua participated in the NNED Chalice Lighter program for the 2011 – 2012 year by designating the program to be the recipient of one collection that totaled \$210.70.

Last year's Denominational Connections Committee Annual Report mentioned that UU Nashua's Outreach collections for the month of May 2011 were designated for the NNED Chalice Lighter program. The proceeds from those collections were sent to the NNED at the end of May 2011. The total for those collections, the DC Committee recently learned upon inquiry, was \$2048.53.

The Committee would like to acknowledge Burns Fisher and Ellen Fisher for their generosity and efforts in support of UU Nashua's representation by live delegates at the 2011 UUA GA in Charlotte, North Carolina and in support of UU Nashua's involvement in NNED Harvest the Power activities at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. The Committee would like to thank all the delegates to GA and to the NNED meeting for their efforts and support in representing UU Nashua. The Committee would like to acknowledge Harry Purkhiser for efforts in support of 2011 Harvest the Power activities promoting ties with the UUA and leadership within the UU Nashua congregation. The Committee would like to thank Hilary Keating for receiving the NNED delegate packets and her timely action in getting them to the church office for proper distribution. The Committee would like to acknowledge Mike Wilt for his assistance with collection figures mentioned in this report. The Committee would like to thank Laurie Goodman for her ongoing support of DC activities. Last year's report thanked Reverend Steve Edington for his many years of supporting the Committee's activities. One more year can now be added to that.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Licking, Chair