

## **Board Meeting Focus: RE, VOICE Rally, and Black Lives Matter**

The Board discussed three program topics at its August 2016 meeting: Religious Education progress and plans, a major upcoming VOICE rally, and effective UUCA solidarity with Black Lives Matter.

One year into her role as director of Lifespan Religious Education at UUCA, LeeAnn Williams discussed progress and opportunities in the RE program, referencing themes that emerged from the facilitated discussions the Board had with parents, teachers, and children in May about how to make religious education an essential part of an intergenerational religious community. Discussion findings are summarized in the [Board Linkage Report](#). She is building relationships with families and the community and supporting RE volunteers with resources and training. LeeAnn highlighted progress in welcoming non-parent teachers to RE, and she described reshaping UUCA's RE as experiential learning rather than strictly academic learning. LeeAnn emphasized the importance of focusing RE on lifelong spirituality to fulfill UUCA's Connect, Grow, and Serve mission.

VOICE volunteers David McTaggart and Bob Blinn urged broad UUCA participation in the Sunday, October 16 event at Oakton High School, "Get on the Bus" for justice. UUCA, a long-time active participant in VOICE ([Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement](#)), aims to bus at least 225 interested church members and friends to the non-partisan event, where state and local officials will speak. VOICE continues to press legislators to support safe communities, affordable housing, and quality schools for all Northern Virginians. Register to participate at <http://uucavoicibus.eventbrite.com> or text "VOICE" to 444999.

Rev. Aaron talked with the Board about UUCA's congregational commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement. He said that he, Rev. Linda, and a church leadership group seek to support the BLM movement in ways that black leadership consider meaningful from a majority white congregation. The leadership group will deliver to UUCA a program first developed at the First Unitarian Church of Richmond, and based on a three-step approach: self-reflection to begin during September and October, followed by self-education about the Black Lives Matter movement, currently planned for November-December-January, and then organizing for action as allies who follow direction from BLM black leadership.

During 2016-2017, an intern will join UUCA for 20 hours each week to support multigenerational program development.

In September, the board will review the past year's finances in detail to inform future strategies.

Submitted by Betsey Lyon, Board Secretary  
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