

Campus Ministry Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, 2/18/01

Present: Joseph Lyons, YACM Campus & Field Coordinator
Michael Tino, YACM Director
Ella Hereth, YRUU Representative
Rev Mary Ann Macklin, UUMA Representative
Steve Caldwell, LREDA Representative
Rev Todd Strickland, CUUYAN Representative
Katie Chamberlain, At-Large
Joellynn Monahan, At-Large
Jonathan Craig, At-Large
Benjamin Ernst, Filmmaker

Campus Ministry History Overview (Joseph)

SRL: Student Religious Liberals, active 65-73, outgrowth of LRY
CM added to YA office (Donna D) in 99
Now: most activity since 1950s
Unitarians-first denomination to intentionally locate congregations near campuses
(late 19th century)
Q: Were there more Unitarian/Universalist/UU campus chaplains?

State of the CM Union (Joseph)

Four main areas we're focusing on (presented as quadrants of circle):

Community

CM groups connected to congregations
Outreach materials (posters, brochures we're developing)
Curricula (Articulating (Y)Our Faith)
District and regional structures:
 District CM contacts
 Regional consultants
 District CM committees
 Anchor congregations
Grant programs
Opus/ConCentric
Bridging Programs

Leadership Development

Trainings for CM folks
 Regional training model started
 Lay campus chaplain training
 GA and ConCentric programs
 Leadership Odyssey
Training of Trainers

Networking

New website (YA&CM Office/C*UUYAN)
New database
Group directory

Individual

CLF 18 year-old project

CMAC Mission (brainstorm)

Advising
Steering
Connecting
Advocates and ambassadors to constituencies
Stakeholders
Policy development
Strategic planning
Institutional history
Consistent structure to hold CM in the face of transitions, local ebbs and flows
Connections between congregations and campuses
Defining roles of congregations
Sharing ideas and resources
Facilitate growth of CM groups
Advocate for CM groups to congregations and universities

Connections with youth groups and organizations
Spiritual growth as an important outcome of CM work
Encourage institutionalization
Professional development-training opportunities for seminarians, religious educators (Renaissance modules), lay leaders (leadership schools)
Ongoing critique/evaluation of what's happening
Defining CM
Encouraging congregations to adopt CM as a mission/ministry of their congregations
Ground all CM work in U/U/UU history
Connections between bridging and CM—also bridging from CM to YA community

Why is CM important? (brainstorm)

College Students-making big decisions, need the wisdom, guidance of Uuism
Critical years for faith development, identity, self
Common UU demographic is college education (both a strength and a limitation)
College students as important source of institutional change (worship, action, structure)
Important to have a liberal religious presence on campuses (often the only one)
Connections with others—combats isolation and loneliness on campus, building relationships and support, connecting with others from YRUU, looking for connections (as non-UU)
Keeping youth involved as UU
Important as UU spiritual home for students
Inspiration for other aspects of college students' lives
Lifelong UU s experience anger/disillusion if there is a gap in their faith—if no

UU faith is provided for them as college students
Enriches life of congregation, UUA, campuses, individuals
Creates authentic community in congregations (all generations are there)
College students as mentors for children in congregations
UU message of worth/wholeness is lifesaving (often literally)
UU allows us to remain spiritual and faithful without losing our integrity
Current UU ministry does not generally meet the needs of college students—need for a specialized ministry for them
Lost potential as religious movement as our youth leave our movement (cliff)
Creates space for real self-presence and safe place to share
CM can strengthen families—gives connections with children who are away at school
Connections between students and mentors—connections with faculty, staff, ministers, lay leaders

Growth of CM is exciting—opportunities for students, bringing important things for their lives
Justice work on campuses: source for organizing and action, energy to raise awareness and do things, freedom and flexibility (willingness to take risks—get arrested “hire a college kid to get arrested for

you”)...model of union actions involving college students, important to be an institutional support for justice work (to provide support for individuals following justice-centered passions—allowing faith to undergird their social justice pursuits)
CM *as* social justice work
Pastoral care

What is our vision for CM in the UUA? (brainstorm)

Denominational network that is both individual- and chapter-based
Advisors and point people (resource people) directory
Compiled physical resources—curricula, program outlines, ideas, other resources—accessible
Training in seminaries, Renaissance modules, inclusion in youth advisor trainings, inclusion in leadership school
Association and congregational leaders should be able to articulate and own vision for CM
Creating safe campuses and campus ministries—credentialing for CM leaders (lay leaders as well as paid ones), creating guidelines for CM groups to make them open and accessible to all students
Developing mentoring for college students—really understanding this, taking it seriously, developing models for doing it on campuses--mutuality
Faith as support for activism—support for community ministry among college students, support for grassroots justice efforts from college students
Development of spiritual practices for college students and support in their pursuit of those practices
Congregations see ministry to/with college students (and college-aged people) as integral to their mission
Evangelical component of CM—owning the power of this and the importance of welcoming people into UU (and keeping the folks we

have): sharing the good news of Unitarian Universalism
College as period of intense questioning: vision of strong voice of liberal religion on campuses as counter for the voice that’s there, which tells students that there are easy answers to their questions—making it OK to have questions, making it OK to have different answers from others and stay in relation with them
Support structures for people who are willing to be a liberal voice on campuses (providing support for people in potentially hostile or challenging religious environments, having unique UU responses to the religious right)
Formation of a UU faith identity—learning to negotiate a new community; what does it mean to be different?; what makes us UU?—we do have faith claims! (vision: to articulate the claims of Unitarian Universalism and what they mean for college students)
Development of leadership—analysis, hands-on skills, confidence (how do we foster this?)
Development of model of CM that does not rely on “social club” mentality but which allows for the development of important social relationships
CM as more inclusive than just students—who else?
Age- and development-specific programming

Programming for the year after college—often a hard year...paying a lot of attention to transition ages—more attention to youth-YA bridge as well
 Worship-centered model as inclusive—creation of resources for inclusive worship models
 Critical mass of people of the same age
 Lots and LOTS of paid CM staffers
 Modeling after other religious groups on campuses
 Brand name
 Groups need to be clear about their age boundaries (and real about

that), and resources to allow groups to do this and help people who do not fit group boundaries to find better matches for them (how do we tell older YA or non-YA to find a group that's better for them because their presence is not making a safe space for the younger folks?)
 Multi-layered ministry—small group ministry model for people of different ages, etc—with clear connections between groups

Small Working Groups

We broke up into three groups to try to synthesize the discussions of this morning. The groups addressed the CMAC Mission, Why Campus Ministry is Important and a Vision for UU Campus Ministry. Below are the reports from the groups.

Why Campus Ministry is Important

We believe that it is important to provide a supportive faith community that addresses the unique concerns and pressures of the “student” transitional phase of life. This outreach must occur in the campus setting because of the realities of college life, including time pressures, limited transportation, and the need for specific worship settings that value the young adult experience. In focusing on providing ministry that centers on the articulated needs of students (rather than on our conceptions of what those needs might be), we benefit students, congregations and the entire Unitarian Universalist movement.

Campus Ministry Advisory Committee Mission

Our mission is to provide the strategic and institutional vision for campus ministry. Accountable to the UUA, we advise on the growth, planning, evaluation and scope of campus ministry. We support a system of campus ministries between and among congregations, campus chapters and associational organizations with recommendations, resources and networks. We promote the inclusion of campus ministry in the mission of all congregations and affirm the value of spiritual growth and worship-centered campus chapters.

Vision for Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry must be grounded at the local level, networked at district and regional levels and valued and prioritized at the continental/denominational level. We identified three broad areas for focusing our vision for UU Campus Ministry: identity, resources and training.

Identity

- Unitarian Universalists, especially college students, need support and skill in articulating our faith claims both in forms of individual spiritual identity and being a liberal religious voice on campuses and in the world
- Spiritual/faith identity can be the foundation for students' lives as activists, academics, etc.

- The young adult movement is an important and integral part of Unitarian Universalism yet our models may be very different from congregational life and need to be recognized as such. These unique models meet the particular developmental needs of college students and help them deepen and sustain their faith while finding their place in Unitarian Universalism and the world.
- No longer part of “your family’s faith,” you are breaking new spiritual ground while at college. (evangelical vision for people of no faith)
- This is the time during which we are developing our faith and also the most visible promoters of Unitarian Universalism
- Worship and spirituality are the grounding for our work and our lives

Crazy Freakin’ Radical Resources

- Resources which are: easily accessible; shared; developed by participants at all levels; evaluated and critiqued; specific to age and developmental needs; focused by topics, skills, and persons needing/utilizing them (i.e. student leaders, ministers/chaplains, congregants, etc)
- Guide to being “out” as a person of faith on your campus
- Guidelines/Policies: Creating safe “campus congregations” (relating/relationships/sexual behavior; diversity/inclusiveness; alcohol/drugs/weapons; ages/age ranges; physical safety; mentors/advisors/leaders)

Training

- Develop and provide ongoing support to leadership (lay and ordained, students and adults)
- Leadership skills could include such things as organizing/grassroots skills and worship leadership
- Provide a sense of ownership and of voice on the part of CM students and groups and the YA&CM office within the local to continental movements

Campus Ministry Practices

What is working?

Opus is a growing and successful event that is involving more students and including more programming relevant to younger young adults, especially activists and people searching for spiritual paths—the voices of students have been heard at the planning level of Opus

GA Young Adult caucus is providing a strong social network for young adults who grew up in the youth movement

ConCentric is allowing students a slice of the vision for the continental movement, but still has the greatest challenges in this area.

Awareness and promotion of continental events is greater.

Madison: Getting students who are new to UU to come to continental events (esp. GA)

Bridging is strong and visible at GA and at several local and district events (SUUSI, Southwest District, Pacific Central District, Metro NY District, Florida District) and at some congregations (esp. larger congregations in the Pacific Northwest District, where there is district-level support for the ceremonies from the Lifespan RE Consultant)

Bridging Ceremony resource and cards

Pre-Bridging Workshops at GA

Madison: institutionalization of campus ministry as _-time position with _-time parish ministry position

Endowment programs: All Souls Tulsa, Madison, Wellesley

Wellesley: Alumnae Networking, Campus Advisory Committee, networking of parents for support

Florida State, Berkeley: letter to in-state churches (addressed to DREs)—helped identify core of students

Wellesley, Duke, Champaign-Urbana, Florida State, Rice: UU Campus chaplain/group as part of University religious life staff/network

Berkeley, Madison, Bloomington IN: part of an interdenominational group not formally affiliated with university

Boulder: part of a multi-faith ministry (United Ministries in Higher Education) funded by 11 different churches (UU, UCC, DoC, Presbyterian, Quaker)—hire a campus minister together (note: this model does not work in some UMHE chapters for whom Christian identity is an important part of this ministry or where mainline Protestant denominations have faced extreme financial hardships—similar efforts have failed in Ann Arbor, Madison, Washington DC, San Diego), provides pastoral support and space for the UU campus ministry.

SOA: As a gathering of student UUs around a social justice issue, with opportunities for rich dialogue (this year, UUs in the military were invited to discuss the issue with participants); similar gatherings in Seattle at the WTO protest and Quebec City have also been successful. Local church support has been vital.

Portland: Metropolitan Campus Ministry council combines efforts of three churches on three campuses.

Madison: MUUYACM group also spans three congregations

Connecting with UUSC to do Alternative Spring Break trips.

Higher visibility of and staff support at YA&CM office

Leaders of campus groups must be aware of the possibility that campus ministry leaders can provide a more structured support for campus groups—leader can take more responsibility for organizing and leading the group (helps alleviate problems coming from the busyness of college students)

Worship-centered campus ministry (Berkeley, Wellesley, Champaign-Urbana, Madison, Florida State, Duke is getting there) creates a unique and wonderful dynamic—holds a great diversity of people

Personal contact as an important part of campus ministry—pastoral presence—follow-up emails with phone calls to invite people to things.

Creating institutional structure to sustain the campus ministry—training new leaders, committee of campus lay ministers; support must have buy-in from mission of congregation

Tulsa: Soulful Sundown invites students (has some 100 students attending)

What are our challenges/growing edges?

Creating relevant skill-building opportunities at ConCentric

Tension between YA programming and other (association-wide) programming for students who are new to Unitarian Universalism

Bridging ceremonies in some local congregations are not very effective, visible (nor do they even exist in many places).

What comes after the bridging ceremony? We need more effective resources for bridgers for what comes next.

Getting the word out for UUSC opportunities to campus groups.

People in leadership burning out and leaving the movement—no catch to support them

Bad reputation of young adult ministry is a heavy anchor for CM even though it's a different thing (older men preying on younger women, lack of meaning and spirituality development—"social club" atmosphere)

Hyper-intense YRUU community that is often oppositional to congregations and intergenerational community is still a problem

Lack of understanding of how to sustain campus ministry models (real institutionalization work)

Campus ministry leaders who are “bullies” (who suppress student leadership in the name of providing structured programming)

How do we communicate “successes” to boards, UUA, other groups—what are our measures of success?

Eliminating UU guilt among students—students often do not have the time/energy to lead as they’re used to, so they don’t participate at all because they feel guilty.

Structures for folks on campuses that are far from congregations without campus groups

Structures for sustaining groups far from congregations

Training for campus ministry professionals

Gaining legitimacy within institutional structures (UUMA, LREDA, MFC)

Accessing the growing network of youth advisors to help with this

Missing out on opportunities for UU ministers to serve as college chaplains—valuing the call to campus ministry

Anti-evangelical spirit in UU congregations that makes CM scary

Ideas and Projects Brainstorm

We decided to brainstorm ideas and put them into the categories from Joseph’s White Paper. We worked first in small groups. The ideas from the White Paper are included.

Structures

Advisory Committee

CM development/training meeting

Anchor congregations

District CM reps

UUIGNITE

Regional Conferences

ConCentric

C*UUYAN

UUA YA/CM

Multi-faith campus ministries

Campus ministries convo-thing collective

Developing different models for CM and trainings on them

Distance support—ministerial support for students not near congregations (CLF?)

Evaluation of ALL new resources, programs, services

UUIGNITE regional or continental skills-sharing conferences

GA on college campuses

Heritage/archive project at local, regional and denominational (U, U and UU) levels. Incl. Oral histories of ministers, lay leaders, students, past UU campus chaplains.

Services

Trainings

Ally/Chaplain

Consulting

UUJEC Curriculum

District Campus Ministry

YRUU cons

District Bridging Ceremonies

Bridging letter

Speaker’s bureau

Resources

Research

College survival gift—buy from UUA

Archives

Database

Accessible history

YA pamphlets

Compile and disseminate YA programming

List serve

Packet

Training—RE, ministers, youth allies, leadership development includes CM

Curriculum development

Worship modules

Covenant groups

Campaign to reach out to UUs in military

Evaluate youth advisor trainings, Renaissance modules (worship for all ages, ministry w/youth) and district leadership schools for CM content; advocate for inclusion when necessary

Development of CM Renaissance module

Intentional encouragement of youth/YA to ministry (internship program) in all three tracks
Coursework in CM at SKSM and MLTS
Requirement for youth, YA and/or CM for ministerial fellowship
Div student internships—development of campus/educational chaplainry options in all 3 tracks
Workshops/trainings for seminarians and ministers on broader field of campus chaplainry
Expansion of training programs for laypeople/students through training of trainers model
Resources for CM group growth and campus outreach (gathering events

model, learning from congregational growth literature)
“Combo Packs” for student leaders, lay leaders, seminarians/ministers, religious educators and youth advisors
Resources downloadable in PDF and HTML formats
Ads/outreach available online
Worship resources for CM groups
Social Justice resources- how to info
Basic organizing/facilitation trainings for local campus groups possibly train the regional consultants to run these
CM courses in seminaries
Web database
Support UU Prophets project

Funding

Incentive grants
Con-Cam-Con grants
Billings Fund
FUU Grants

Fair Trade coffee sales
Manual on raising \$ from universities
Seek grants for priority projects
Raise awareness for available funding

Administration

Brand Name
Logo
Brochure
Web Site
Video
Posters

Campus ad campaign
Bridging cards
YA&CM info cards
Listing in UUA directory
1-800 number in a more stable place
CUUMin as a brand name

Prioritization of Ideas

Each person was given eight votes to place as she or he wished. The following things received votes:

6 votes

Worship Resources
Organizational Resources for local groups/regional coordinators run them

5 votes

Listing of CM groups in UUA directory

4 votes

Anchor congregations
Multi-faith campus ministry
Training on different models—develop models, small group curriculum
CM courses in UU seminaries
Renaissance modules include CM
Brand name TM

3 votes

Downloadable resources
Combo/start-up packs for different target audiences
Evaluation of all programs
YRUU Con outreach
Support for YA Prophets
Youth advisor training includes info on bridging and CM

2 votes

Heritage/Archive project
 UU Ignite skill sharing conferences
 Push for GA on college campuses
 Fair Trade Coffee Sales
 Congregational start-up model
 resources applied to CM
 Compile CM program ideas
 Training for religious professionals in CM
 District leadership schools include CM
 Website
 Campus Ad Campaign

1 vote

Reflection and spirituality as category
 Raise awareness of funding availability
 Database
 Curriculum development committee
 Intentional encouragement of youth/YA
 into ministry (internship during college)
 for all three tracks
 MFC require youth/CM/YA
 experience/reading
 CUUMin as brand name with catchy
 spice logo

After voting, we broke for the evening.

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

Priority Ideas Structure**Worship Resources**

Easily accessible – online sharing of worship services done by campus groups.
 E-mail list
 Resources taken off list by YACM office and put on the web site
 Prize for best worship of year, (trip to GA to put on worship)
 What’s available now? Will take work and time (intern?)
 Committee of people who write campus worship?
 Sharing program resources as well?
 SJ projects
 Social events / group building activities
 Gathering events
 Campus Leader Resources – section of web site
 Physical printing?

Organizational Workshops for local groups

Develop CM organization workshop (weekend?) Tied into new CM manual?
 Include in , TOT
 Fee for service

Listing in Directory

Listing of campus groups
 Contact info
 Web site
 Affiliated congregations

Anchor Congregations

Identify congregations / CM groups
 Develop what it means to be an “anchor”
 Ask for extra support for
 Conferences (site organization)
 District committees
 Working with RC to update group contacts in district
 Funding, recruitment

Multi-faith CM

- Creating connections with other denominations nationally
UCC, DOC, American Baptist, Quaker,
- Creating campus chaplainry opportunities
- Develop resource for local groups to do local organizing
How is UMHE in Boulder organized?
- National Professional Campus Chaplain Associations

Training on different models

- Include small group ministry training on TOT

CM courses in UU seminaries

- Develop course
- Get it taught
- Pilot in different areas

Renaissance Modules

- Develop support within LREDA
- Contact Rev Frances Manley in charge of Ren Modules
- Get curricula for existing Ren Modules
Committee to evaluate them and suggest YACM content

Brand Name

- Develop process for finding one , getting ideas, choosing.
Contest?
- Test marketing
- Hire a graphic artist to make logo.

Adopted the following statements:

Structure Recommendation:

Establish a 7 member group to provide a strategic and institutional vision for UU Campus Ministry. Membership will include representatives from LREDA, YRUU, C-UUYAN, UUMA and three additional appointments by the YACM office (with consideration to region, age and CM experience.) The committee will also include appropriate staff as determined by YACM office, a UU Board liaison is also suggested.

The committee will meet through various means throughout the year including four conference calls, two face to face conferences and an ongoing list serve.

In its advisory role, this committee is charged to establish methods to uphold its mission.

Why Campus Ministry is important

We believe that it is important to provide a supportive faith community that addresses the unique concerns and pressures of the transitional nature of student life. Campus ministry is an inherent and under-represented component of our lifespan religion, with significant potential for extraordinary contributions to Unitarian Universalism. By focusing on the articulated needs of college young adults, Campus ministry benefits students by providing a consistent meaningful UU community, Therefore congregations become authentically intergenerational and have access to the diverse gifts of students, and the broader UU movement cultivates leadership and a voice for liberal religion in the world!

Campus Ministry Vision

Our vision is a Continental Campus Ministry grounded at the local level, networked at the district and regional level, and valued and prioritized at the Associational / Continental level.

A collaborative ministry, it must be part of both the campus and congregational communities. Incorporating diverse and unique models, Campus Ministry meets the particular developmental needs of college students.

Campus Ministry will provide students with the skills and support to articulate their faith claims and develop a spiritual identity as the foundation for their lives. This provides the grounding from which students and Campus Ministry groups act for social justice change in their communities and the world.

Campus Ministry will develop and provide leadership training and resources which cultivate empowered leaders with a strong sense of voice. These resources will help create safe campus ministry spaces, support students as they articulate a liberal religious voice, and nurture and sustain student's social justice work on campus and in the world.

Building Support

Discussed the ways in which representatives from LREDA, UUMA, YRUU and CUUYAN can communicate, solicit feedback and obtain endorsement of this shared vision. Ideas included:

UUMA – networking at Convo in Birmingham AL, resolution at UUMA Membership Meeting at General Assembly, conversations with president, UUMA Exec.

LREDA – written report to LREDA Exec, networking at LREDA Conference in Fall 2002, networking at General Assembly.

CUUYAN – report at ConCentric, discussion on email with CUUYAN Steering Committee.

YRUU – discuss with contact on YRUU Steering Committee, attend Youth Council.

Other groups -

Society of Ministry – Joellynn Monahan

UU Historical Society – Katie Chamberlain

Please report back to the UUCMAC list about the actions you are taking or information you receive!

A document will be made available to all members including statements on structure, mission, why and vision.

Priority Items

Discussed and adopted the list of priority items.

Need to be collecting campus ministry information ongoing, such as JPD CampUUs workshop outlines, and post regular calls for documents.

Brand Name

UUSM – Unitarian Universalist Student Movement (#1 Choice) “Where do you stand on issues? We don’t stand, we move!”

Other ideas – UU student organization, UU students, UU campus ministry, UU campus connection, UU student religious liberals, CUUMIN: campus uu ministries, UU student society, UU student association.

Need to do more focus work and develop buy-in before establishing the name.

Train the Trainers

If space, we have interest from

Joellynn Monahan, Katie Chamberlain, Jonathan Craig, Todd Strickland, Benjamin Ernst (CPC)

Funding Capacity

Michael reviewed our funding resources.

Do we want to create a Campus Min Membership?

What do we really want from this:

Commitment, Buy-in, ownership, energy, identity, numbers, connection, networking opportunities, **we can have a tight list of people who are active**

Money from membership dues

Cons:

Monetary burden for students

UUYAN membership hasn't worked out

Alternatives:

Chapter affiliation

CLF – We could register students with the CLF and leverage services and our needs from them.

Problem: the Tostada database is watered down with inactive members so the issue is how to clean the database.

Let's error on the side of a watered down database and ask people to help us clean the roles by updating themselves.

Wrap-Up:

What do you need to be ambassadors for Campus Ministry?

Business card sized handout with continental campus ministry info on it. Mission statement, contacts, programs, why, etc. (like the UU principles card)

Next meeting: Birch Bay, WA at Concentric 2002 August 9-12.

Pre-OPUS half day meeting? (August 12-13)

A NEW KIND OF FUN!