

Report to ConCentric 2003
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In the two years since Rev Donna DiSciullo left the office so many amazing things have happened. I recently talked with Donna, to let her know that Alison Miller with we worked together closely for several years, was receiving the YACM Annual Award that now bears her name. I was at a loss for where to start exactly. It feels like the young adult movement went through a major transition from 1998 to 2000, in becoming a sponsored organization of the UUA, establishing the conference planning committee, developing a long-range plan and hiring our first 2 year program associate in Jesse Jaeger.

Now in 2003, Dr Michael Tino has been our Director of Young Adult & Campus Ministry, Laurel Albina has moved into the 2 year program associate position, and we've had stability in the office management with Erik Kesting having stayed in the job for over 2 years as well. I'm now into my 5th year with the YACM Office, and I have to say this has been one of the most exciting times and a really amazing staff to work with. In 2002 we broadened our networking & organizing capacity with the creation of the YACM Regional Organizing Consultants, placed our campus vision into a structure called the UUA Campus Ministry Advisory Committee, and continued our identity-community building with DRUUMM and the brand new DRUUMM Youth & Young Adults Committee for persons of color.

There are many deep appreciations to be made, to Michael for his stable wisdom and amazing ability to collect and put into action diverse ideas, for Laurel with whom I have grown immensely this year and enjoyed intense process political and process theological conversations, to Victoria who alas was lost with budget cuts at the UUA for now who grounded the people of color work even for a short time and showed a mature independence and problem-solving ethic that was very effective, to Erik who keeps the office systems humming and really knows the inner-workings of how we do things plus continues his education and splendid musical performance, and to our summer interns Jonah and Rachel who never knew they could start one day and be running the Boston Office by themselves on day 2. Thanks all for making this work so exciting, challenging, reflective, intense, caring and most of all spiritual.

My job transitioned 2 years ago from primarily conferences and leadership support into grassroots organizing and campus ministry. This has been a relatively smooth transition with Laurel, summer interns and a whole team of volunteers picking up the details, mentoring, orientation, archiving and vision. Everything is interconnected I believe, and it will be an interested next 3 years as the ROCS, CMAC and DRUUMM YAYA integrate into the C*UUYAN-UUA YACM System.

Onto my job responsibilities and a report for ConCentric:

Campus Ministry

My work as point person for campus ministry runs directly through the UUA Campus Ministry Advisory Committee. We met for a day last year before ConCentric, for 3 days in Madison this February, and for the day before this years ConCentric. CMAC has been a growing voice within the UUA and its member congregations, organizations and networks, and my hope is that this group continues to become the primary voice for campus ministry within C*UUYAN, YRUU, UU Ministers Association and the Liberal Religious Educators Association. While it has only been 18 months since CMAC was formed, the members have already identified and begun to address critical issues within the campus ministry community. We've clarified vision, worked on outreach materials, envisioned ways to deepen institutional commitment and begun work on professional credentialing and ethics. There is so much work to do in campus ministry and it is always worth a mention that the campus ministry effort was dormant from the late 1960's until the late 1990's, a period of almost 30 years.

→See the Campus Ministry Report to ConCentric 2003 for more information.

Regional Organizing Consultants

Supervision and coordination of the ROCS continues to become more familiar, systemic and effective. We have worked for a whole year and are now beginning to establish the routine and method with which ROCS and the YACM Office do their work. We have a challenge ahead in linking the ROC work with the District Organizing and hopefully the C*UUYAN Political System, ie how do District Representatives connect with C*UUYAN.

The ROC Priorities still are highly relevant, (1) Checking in with each registered YA/CM group in ConnectUU and (2) Serving as a clearinghouse for YACM information. Through these two functions the local grassroots has access to more support, and more geographically centered people. This fosters a small network within the Continental YA Community and deepens the outreach of YACM resources and information.

The updating and redesign of www.UUYAN.org and the implementation of www.ConnectUU.com have been primary tools for the ROCS and I am grateful that we have been able to develop them so quickly and that the ROCS have taken time to study and orientate themselves to these online resources.

Michael and I have talked and our vision is to have the ROCS meet with the SC this year, continuing the "joint" meeting approach but rotating which groups the ROCS have their Spring Meeting with. We are looking at February 2004 in Chicago or DC for our next meeting (we meet twice a year). We will be hosting our bi-annual (every 2 years) YACM Train the Trainers, and several of the ROCS may be there.

→See the Regional Organizing Consultant Report to ConCentric for more information.

More Work

1. Anti-Racism: I worked with the Youth Office and 2 volunteers (YA Melanie Griffin and Youth Laura Manning) to develop a Youth-YA AR Training and field tested a weekend workshop for the Mass area Youth/Adult Committees. From this work we're working to fine-tune the anti-racism resources for education and training. We held a meeting in Portland OR to further develop these resource but ran into the challenge of where the vision and monitoring is held, and thus the proposal for a C*UUYAN-YRUU Transformation Team was formed.
2. Young Adults of Color Network, has now been merged with Youth of Color and is held by the DRUUMM Youth & Young Adults Committee which I am serving as a staff liaison to from the UUA. This work is still primarily held within my time and efforts and we're making it a priority to transition this over more fully to the volunteer led DRUUMM Youth & Young Adults Committee.
3. Web, Online, etc. Great thanks to Laurel Albina for her vision with the website, and for the whole YACM staff in writing and advocating for our online resources. ConnectUU is also in need of some significant redesign and added capability. I hope soon that we are able to review more data through ConnectUU and that the lay out and functionality improve.
4. Campus Ministry Manual – still a major priority.
5. District Committees – becoming a major priority.

The Rest

1. I was able to take April 2003 off to travel to the Khasi Hills India at the invitation of the Youth-Young Adult wing of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India, present workshops and be a part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Youth-Young Adult wing.
2. I continue to study at Harvard Divinity School part-time.
3. My partner Aimee Santos and her son Gabriel, with her mom Bernadette, the four of us are moving to New York City where she will start grad school at Columbia. I'll be commuting each week to Boston. Portland OR is still my home home.