

NAUA Board Meeting Notes

1. NAUA Academy

- a. Last program was on April 18th on the topic of Immigration by Bruce Knotts. It was well received and there were approximately 20 participants.
- b. The next Academy program will be on May 14th, the presenter will be Terry Anderson and the title of his presentation is "Color Blindness: Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution". This will be based on the writings and presentations of Coleman Hughes and Sheena Mason.
- c. There will be no Academy presentations in June, July and August. We will resume in September. We are currently planning our Fall Academy Season. Programs with Rev. Barry Andrews and Dr. Mark Reimers have been proposed to the Advisory Committee.
- d. The Book Club run by Ed Hudak is going well. I believe he currently has 12 active participants of which 8 have chosen books that they would like to discuss.

2. The International Alliance

- a. The main activity of the International Alliance at the moment is a study course, led by John Eichrodt from France with administrative support from me. It meets the last Saturday of each month and will run for a total of 6 months (not July or August).
- b. The title of the Study Course is "Unitarianism, the Enlightenment, its Philosophical Beginnings and Current Relevance."
- c. There are 16 registrants now. For the first meeting we had 13 participants from 9 countries covering 10 time zones.
- d. In addition to his work on the course, John Eichrodt has functioned as an informal ambassador for NAUA at the organization of Unitarian Universalists in Europe. He spoke at their recent retreat introducing NAUA, met with members of EUU leadership at the retreat and has been invited to speak at about the NAUA study course at an upcoming EUU leadership meeting next week. So John is "waving the NAUA flag" and is getting a positive response. Past responses from some members of the same organization were frankly hostile. So we are making progress.
- e. Last week we got our first NAUA member from the Philippines, Calvin Trent Yost. He is a lay leader of the Unitarian Universalist Church in the Philippines of which there are 20 congregations. I've had an e-mail correspondence with him and I think there are might be some interesting opportunities for

cultural exchanges between NAUA members and UUs in the Philippines.

3. Notes on Todd concept for NAUA

- a. The proposal has some advantages and disadvantages, advantages include:
 - i. It does not require confrontation with the UUA.
 - ii. Individuals can remain fully associated with their congregations and also be members of NAUA . This represents the vast majority of UUs.
 - iii. By considering means to assist groups seeking to form fellowships or congregations, provides flexibility to permit growth should NAUA want evolve in a more “denominational” direction in the future.
- b. Some disadvantages include:
 - i. It does not save Unitarian Universalism from “self-destructing” and the resulting significant decrease in the number of individuals identifying as Unitarians or Unitarian Universalists.
 - ii. It is not obvious to me as to how the proposal would preserve or increase a Unitarian or UU ministry.
 - iii. A significant number of ardent UUs will likely find the proposal inadequately aggressive and seek other solutions which might compete with NAUA.
 - iv. Is the commitment to Enlightenment values a foundation to be built upon or is it mean to limit to scope of religious exploration?