



## In the Interim

*Rev. Fred Muir, UUPCC Interim Executive Director*

Over the last several months I have had the opportunity to be included in conversations with UUPCC members and friends. One of the lasting feelings from each of my Zoom exchanges is *gratitude*; gratitude for the joy, commitment, and promise I hear you express. In spite of the pandemic and all the hardships we have experienced this last year—in our families, among our friends, in our congregations, as well as with our international partners—there is a spirit of enthusiasm and excitement for partnering. This joy is so important for us! Joy lets us rise above the challenges and hardships that might (and do) bring us down. I have heard about the joy you find in your international relationships with adults, youth, and children. This is so wonderful!



(*in·tər·əm*: the time between two particular periods or events.)

The joy I'm describing is assembled with a variety of tools found in the container called commitment. Some of these instruments are older than others, but they all help to construct, maintain, and sustain your partnering. What I've learned is that you are more than willing to share your tools and how you have used them. Indeed, we are all in this together; the pandemic has reminded us of this bold truth. The joy from your commitment reminds me of the banner on the UUPCC website that reads: "The most radical things we can do is introduce people to one another." One definition of *radical* is returning to roots, going back to the basics. It feels like building relationships is fundamental—it's radical—to the well-being of all, certainly to our partnerships.

As the UUPCC and the ICUU (International Council of Unitarians/Universalists) continue shaping a path that bridges to a new international organization, your joy and commitment are heard as assurance in the growing global faith we love and hold close. As difficult as the pandemic has been, I've sensed a growing promise of what it is we'll do on the other side, that it will be new, far-reaching, and remarkable! What we are building will not only sustain what we love most about partnering, but bring even greater depth of meaning to our relationships.

We will emerge from the pandemic brighter, bolder, and better than a year ago, with new friendships and possibilities. I look forward to getting there with you.

Take care and stay safe,  
Fred

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# The Conversation Continues...

Rev. Morgan McLean, UUPCC Board President

On behalf of the UUPCC Board of Directors, we are grateful for the continued engagement of our members in the evolving process of discovery and discernment with our collaboration imaginings with the International Council of U/Us. At our online Membership Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, there was clear support to continue these conversations.

These conversations have happened with the backdrop of the pandemic and charged political times. It is clear that our whole world community will emerge changed from the pandemic as we have seen the fragility of human connections. From our teal hymnal we sing "we are building a new way." I believe we are at a moment when we really might be building a new way, one that challenges past assumptions and centers on community first. My hope, and I believe it is shared by many of you, is that the next evolution of the UUPCC will make space for new voices, new stakeholders, and new priorities. This means some things will be set aside to allow new things to take shape. The transition will be filled with learning and growing, and certainly more difficult conversations. We are asking ourselves what history, structures, and power are we ready to give up to allow the new way to emerge? I look forward to exploring this challenge and to building the new way together.

Below is your feedback about partnership, personal experiences, and membership. It was wonderful to hear from you, our members, about what has been at the heart of your commitment to partnership. What else would you add to this? As always, please feel free to email us anytime at [office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org) . Look for more opportunities for conversations and imagining coming soon.

## What's the "spirit" of partnership?



## *What was your biggest "a-ha" moment in partnership?*

**Personal Connection:** in-person visits, multigenerational experiences, friendship, warmth, ongoing relationships changing over time with shared history, sense of family, instant connection, radical hospitality, continuity on repeat visits, openness, generosity

**Self-reflection:** Appreciation for home and conveniences of US living, contrast to our lives, changed by experiences, not everyone has opportunity to travel, expanding focus, differences from born-in faith vs. a chosen faith, clarify one's own faith

**New learning:** ethnicity and religion among partners, ways of life, common language of music, religious history, difference of beliefs, there are people practicing UU values throughout the world, cultural differences, the history of the places, the impact of historical events, challenge of language differences make it hard, becoming more multicultural

## *What does membership mean to you?*

### **To Find Community**

A community of like-minded people, meet people we otherwise would not, friendship

### **To Be of Service**

Joining in common purpose and goals, to be of service to others, to do something worthwhile, to have a place to contribute, a structure for service for things we're passionate about

### **To Build Connections**

Make friends, build community, identity, networking, communications, access to information and resources, new tools for doing the work

### **To Take a Stand**

A public way of demonstrating a commitment to something larger than myself, a signal to peers and to society

### **To Be Part of the Structure**

Pay more attention, collective knowledge, deeper engagement, provides way to learn best practices, to have representation, to influence the organization, being part of something bigger than myself

### **To Show Commitment**

Care about the future of the organization, responsibility to the organization, consider ways to be involved, to both give and take

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## Partnership Award Nominations Now Due by March 15

*Dear PPC Members, it's time to nominate your deserving candidates for 2021!*

The task of keeping our partner relationships thriving is a rewarding yet challenging role. Although we are not able to gather at General Assembly this summer, we still look forward to recognizing some of our dedicated members and friends who help make partnership happen at our Annual Meeting in June.



2020 ZOOM Annual Meeting

Please take a moment to check out both the Louis B. Cornish **Living the Mission** award and the **Steward of Partnership** awards, then fill out a nomination form to spotlight your congregation's "partnership hero". You can find a list of our previous winners here:

<https://uupcc.org/awards>

You can find more information and a link to the Cornish nomination form at:

<http://www.uupcc.org/awards/cornish>

Information about the Steward of Partnership award and link to the nomination form are here:

<https://uupcc.org/awards/steward>

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# UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL 2020 - 2021

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