

CROSSROADS

NEWS FROM THE JOINT TASK FORCE
OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE/VERMONT AND
NORTHEAST DISTRICTS

JUNE
2004

THE TASK FORCE

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In the spirit of keeping the leadership and the congregations of the NH/VT District and the Northeast District informed about the activities of the Joint Task Force (JTF), we will be sending out these missives after each of our meetings. Please feel free to contact the co-chairs or any other members with your thoughts and concerns.

The JTF held our first meeting on May 22 in Portsmouth, NH. We spent some time getting to know one another, choosing our leadership (co-chairs Buffy Boke of NH/VT, and Roger Comstock of NED), and determining our timetable. The JTF has been charged with bringing recommendations about process and final outcome to the two annual meetings next spring. Therefore, we plan to have our report done for each District board to consider at their respective March 2005 meetings.

We then brainstormed this list of issues to be considered (and some possible solutions):

- Staffing: patterns, professional staff, support staff
- Office: location of; should there even be an office?
- Communications: newsletters, directories, the web sites, etc.
- Communications of this Task Force
- District services: district meetings, congregational consultants and the like
- Committees/departments
- Governance, board structure and By-Laws
- Endowments
- The UUA Trustee(s)
- District Trustees of Trust Funds
- Budgets and financial projections
- Vision long range planning how to sustain our work
- Demographics -- of the districts, the congregations and the states
- Congregational needs assessment
- Interviews with other Districts recently merged (Clara Barton and Heartland)
- Interest groups: ministers, youth, young adults, women and congregational presidents.
- Funding for this project
- Transition plan

We chose which items need to be considered first, and assigned JTF members to look into them. We then looked at any and all possible outcomes from no change at all to shared staff to full merger to everything in between. We are committed to thinking “outside the box” in our deliberations (though a District helicopter probably won’t fit into the budget).

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 4th, with a retreat planned for September 23-24, both in Portsmouth.

