

CROSSROADS

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

NOV.
2004

THE TASK FORCE

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The Joint Task Force had another spirited meeting in Portsmouth on November 11, 2004 with guest Nancy Chaddock, Chief Financial Officer for the New Hampshire/Vermont District.

Together, we reviewed a financial scenario that would enable the two districts to co-hire a full time District Executive and a half time Small Church Specialist to begin work July 1, 2006. After looking at several options through the lens of the ever-mysterious and complicated co-employment with the Unitarian Universalist Association for all District staff, it seemed possible, and good, to share these two staff people. As we looked forward to a co-hire of a full time Religious Education Specialist/Program Consultant plus a half time Youth/Young Adult Specialist to begin work July 1, 2007, the numbers did not gel, and it seemed possible to only have the full time Religious Education Specialist/Program Consultant.

And so, armed with this financial information, representatives of the Joint Task Force will be meeting with Kay Montgomery, Vice President, and Harlan Limpert, Director of District Services, of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on November 30 to “talk turkey” regarding sharing services of these various District staff people. We expect all will go well, and that the UUA will approve our plan.

In the meantime, various constituency groups from each District have been talking with one another and arranging to meet or plan events together. The Program Committees are looking at holding a joint Fall Conference in October 2005 at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME. The Extension and Lifespan Education Committees have made contact, and the two Religious Education staff people (Helen Zidowecki and Mark Glovin) are looking at ways to get the youth together. Each chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association and each District Board have discussed the proposed time line toward shared services.

It is an exciting time for our two Districts! Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Task Force members with your ideas or concerns; we are only as strong as our collective ideas and energy.



