

# **NOW IS THE TIME: Leading Congregations into a Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural Future**

**WHERE: Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington VA**

**WHEN: February 16-18, 2007**

**WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER JACQUELINE LEWIS\***

Dr. Lewis' keynote speech on Friday will be followed by a day-long workshop including small group conversation and in depth exploration of what it means to lead a congregation into a multi-racial, multi-cultural future.

\*Jacqueline Lewis is the Senior Minister of Vision, Worship and the Arts at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. Prior to joining the Middle Church staff in 2004, Jacqui was the project consultant for the Cultural Boundaries Project at the Alban Institute. Along with her work on negotiating cultural boundaries, Jacqui consulted with congregations and led workshops on conflict management, leadership development and spirituality. Jacqui is passionate about developing leadership in multicultural/multiracial churches. She says. "Of 300,000 Christian congregations in this country, only six percent are multiracial, that is with 20 percent of another race other than the majority. We have much work to do around this issue . . . and capacities to be built. We don't need communities of people pretending to be all the same, but rather communities in which the unique particularity of each person is recognized, accepted and affirmed. In the midst of that, it is important to risk showing our authentic selves and embracing the conflict that we might encounter, even while we commit to stay in relationship."

Jacqui earned her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Seminary and her Ph.D. at Drew University in Psychology and Religion. Her doctoral thesis was narrative identity study of clergy who serve multiracial/multicultural congregations. Before joining the staff at Alban, Jacqui had an eight year career at Eastman Kodak Company, where she worked in personnel management and marketing. After seminary, Jacqui served two congregations in urban Trenton, New Jersey, including a new church development project, the Imani Community Church (PCUSA) and the Imani Community Center, for which she was the organizing pastor. This predominantly African American church built a multi-cultural membership and served the community's families and children with creative worship and economic development.

On Saturday morning join **DR MARK HICKS\*** as he presents *“Building the World We Dream About”*, a UUA curriculum created for and hosted by local congregations interested in developing a deeper understanding of the role of race, ethnicity and equity in UU congregational life.

As is well-documented, building a multi-racial/multi-cultural spiritual community is extraordinarily complicated work, but it can be done. The curriculum gently and intentionally builds a community of learners who carve out time to explore their own racial/ethnic histories, inter/intra-group dynamics, the role of power and privilege in congregational life, and, most important, how to respond to what is learned through these discussions with an anti-racist/anti-oppression lens. The morning workshop will provide a brief overview of the curriculum as well as a first-hand experience of the curriculum itself, which is set for field testing later in 2007.

\*Dr. Mark A. Hicks is associate professor of educational transformation at George Mason University, Virginia. As a philosopher, teacher, artist and activist, he combines both his professional and spiritual work in service of creating opportunities for individuals and groups to surface and revisit the assumptions and values that don't serve them nor society well. He is a JUUST Change Consultant and a lay member of the South East Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy. Most recently, he was selected by the UUA to develop, *“Building the World We Dream About”* which is a congregation-based curriculum for exploring issues of race, ethnicity and equity in UU settings. He is a lay leader at All Souls, Unitarian in Washington, D.C.

Attend a Saturday afternoon workshop to gain further clarity as you and other participants delve into the details of fulfilling vision for multi-racial and multi-cultural congregations.

Online Conference Registration begins November 15, 2006