

**A CHRONOLOGY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
INVOLVEMENT IN UNIVERSALISM,
UNITARIANISM AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM
1785 - 2001**

- 1785 – **Gloster Dalton** (d.1813) was one of the 85 signatories of the Charter of Compact of the Gloucester Universalist Society.
- 1801 – **Amy Scott** was one of the incorporators of the First Universalist Society organized in Philadelphia.
- 1845 – “a free colored man, who with his family are members of the Mt. Olympus” Alabama Universalist Society.
- 1860 – Rev. **William Jackson** of New Bedford, who would later serve as chaplain of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry under Unitarian Col. Robert Gould Shaw and later the 55th, announced his conversion to Unitarianism at the AUA Autumnal meeting. They “took up a collection and sent him on his way.”
- 1867 – William White, a white Unitarian, proposed to the AUA that it organize a “Unitarian Colored Church” in Washington D.C. This was endorsed at a regional AUA meeting but nothing materialized.
- 1868 – **Peter H. Clark** (1829-1925) abolitionist, educator and politician joined the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati.
- 1870 – **Francis Ellen Watkins Harper** (1825–1913) abolitionist, writer, lecturer and friend of Peter Clark joins the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia.
- 1871 – **Alfred Amos Williams** was the first of four AME and one AMEZ students to attend Meadville Theological School between 1871 and 1910. (The last is **James Thompson Simpson**, in 1909.)
- 1883–Jenkin Lloyd Jones reorganizes the Fourth Unitarian Society of Chicago as inclusive and interracial All Souls Church.
- 1887 – Rev. **Joseph Jordan** (1842-1901) starts a Universalist mission in Norfolk, VA.
- 1888 - **S. Laing and Fannie Barrier Williams**, intimates of **Booker T. Washington** and **W.E.B. Du Bois**, join the interracial All Souls Church in Chicago.
- 1889 – Jordan becomes the first African American to be ordained as a Universalist minister.
- 1893 – Fannie Barrier Williams (1855-1944) a member of All Souls Church in Chicago delivers “The Religious Mission of the Colored Race” at the World Parliament of Religion. **Frederick Douglass** attends All Souls regular during six months he is in Chicago for the Columbian Exhibition; earlier he had attend All Souls in D.C.
- 1895 – **Hester C. Whitehurst Jeffery** (1843- 1934) national organizer for the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACW), suffragette and

- friend of Susan B. Anthony joins the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. Rev. **Thomas E. Wise** fellowshiped as a Universalist and assists Jordan in beginning a mission in Suffolk, VA.
- 1897–William H. McGlauffin, the southern missionary of the Universalist General Convention, advises the annual meeting solicit African American involvement in its Sunday Schools or Young Peoples Christian Union (YPCU).
- 1899 – **J.A. Murphy** is converted to Universalist and with the help of Quillen Shinn attempted and failed to establish a mission in Bartow, GA.
- 1904 – Wise left the mission in Virginia and returned to A.M.E. Rev. **Joseph F. Jordan** (1863-1929) and his wife, **Mary J. Jordan** (1865-1916), herself a graduate of Shaw University, took over the Suffolk Mission after he spent a year training at Canton Theological School.
- 1905–Fannie Barrier Williams and Celia Parker Wooley found the Frederick Douglass Center, the first interracial social center in Chicago.
- 1906 – **Don Speed Smith Goodloe** (1878-1959) entered Meadville in 1904 and graduated in 1906. Uncertain of finding a ministerial position he returned to teaching and in 1910 became the first Principal of the Maryland Normal School No. 3 which would become Bowie State College. Goodloe's son **Donald** later became a member of All Souls in Washington D.C. **Clarence Bertrand Thompson** (1882-1969) received fellowship with the American Unitarian Association (apparently without mentioning his race) and served for three years as Minister of the Unitarian Church of Peabody, MA.
- 1907 – **Maria Louise Baldwin** (1856-1922) educator, administrator and lecturer became a member of the Unitarian Church of the Disciples in Boston. Earlier, in 1895, with **Florida Ruffin Ridley** (1861-1943) an educator and journalist who was a founding member of the Second Unitarian Church in Brookline, together with **Josephine Ridley** (1842-1924) her mother a charter member of the NAACP, organized a conference of representatives of African American women's clubs to form a federation which later merge with another group to found the NACW in 1896.
- 1908 – **Lewis Latimer** (1848-1928) draftsman, inventor and “Edison Pioneer” was a founding member of the Flushing Unitarian Church.
- 1909 – Unitarian Mary White Ovington co-founds the NAACP with W.E.B. DuBois and John Haynes Holmes, minister of the Community Church of New York and two others.
- 1910 – Holmes begins the integration of Community church by asking his African American associates at the NAACP to attend. Among these was Dr. **Johnson**, a dentist who served as head usher and **Augustus Granville Dill** (1881-1956), the business manager of the NAACP magazine *Crisis*, who later serves as summer organist. Ethelred Brown enrolls at Meadville Theological School.

- 1911 – African Americans in Rusk, OK with Universalist sympathies ask the state superintendent, C.H. Rogers, to help organize a church; acquiescing to white resistance he declines.
- 1912 – Rev. **Egbert Ethelred Brown** (1875-1956) after a two year course of study at Meadville he returned to Jamaica BWI and founds a congregation. Jenkin Lloyd Jones asked to speak at NAACP annual meeting.
- 1913 – **Rev. C.W. Jones** licensed by Universalist Convention assists in Norfolk to drive to pull old congregation together. The effort failed. Celia Parker Wooley was a founding member and on the board of the new Chicago Urban League and S. Laing William was its vice-president.
- 1914 – W.E.B. DuBois, director of publicity ad research for the NAACP, delivers the talk “World Problem of the Colorine” at the Lowell Forum began by Clarence Skinner.
- 1915 – Meadville Theological School holds a convocation on race and immigration at which Booker T. Washington, Jenkin Lloyd Jones and Woolley speak.
- 1916 – Meadville publishes Wooley's talk “Democracy and the Race Problem.”
- 1918 – Woolley, as director of the Frederick Douglass Center, invites the Chicago Urban League to move its office there, rent-free.
- 1920 – E. E. Brown moved from Kingston, Jamaica to Harlem and founded the Harlem Community Church. Among its founding members were some of the most prominent Socialist in Harlem: **W.A. Domingo** (1889-1968), **Thomas B. Moore** (1893-1978), **Grace P. Campbell** (1882-1943) **Frank A. Crosswaith** and **Thomas A. Potter**.
- 1927 – **Errold D. Collymore DDS.** (1882-1972) integrates the White Plains Unitarian Church and later became chair of its Board. Rev. **Lewis Allen McGee** (1893-1979) an AME minister approached Curtis Reese and is told “if you want to be a Unitarian you’d better bring your own church.”
- 1929 – Joseph F. Jordan dies and his daughter, **Annie B. Willis** (1893-1977), takes over the school but the church dies. Jeffery Worthington Campbell enrolls at Canton Theological School. John Dietrich, minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis and leading Humanist, delivers a sermon entitled “The Myth of a Superior Race.” E.E. Brown is removed from fellowship by the AUA.
- 1930 – Rev. **Harry V. Richardson** (1901-1990) is refused admission by the AUA. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1932, earned a doctorate from Drew and was co-founder and first President of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta. Community Church of White Plains supports Collymore when a cross is set ablaze on the front lawn of his home.
- 1932 – **William H. G. Carter** (1877-1962) founded Church of the Unitarian Brotherhood in Cincinnati. Local Unitarian ministers know of him but do not inform the AUA. Carter’s sons **Daniel** and **Andrew** later became

- Unitarians and a grandson, **Leslie Edwards**, joined Northern Hills Fellowship in 1993.
- 1935 – Rev. **Jeffery Worthington Campbell** (1910-1984) graduates from Canton Theological School and the Universalist grant him fellowship. E.E. Brown is reinstated when the ACLU threatens to sue the AUA.
- 1936–**Roy Wilkins**, editor of “The Crisis”, speaks on “The Present Black-White Situation” at the Ridgewood Unitarian Church. *Unitarian Face a New Age*, a report by the AUA Commission on Appraisal that is meant to set the tone for the future fails to mention race or diversity in the context of Extension or Ministry. W.E.B DuBois speaks at the 1st Universalist Church of Peoria, IL.
- 1937 – Campbell is elected president of the International Religion Fellowship, the youth wing of the IARF.
- 1938 – Rev. Felix D. Lyon came across Brotherhood Church in Cincinnati and tells the AUA. Lon Ray Call visits but neither Carter nor the congregation is welcomed. Campbell is fellowshipped as a Unitarian. He recalled that AUA President, Frederick May Eliot, would start making excuses as soon as he saw him at the other end of the hall.
- 1939 – **Marguerite Campbell** (1916-1983), Jeff’s sister marries Frances Davis. Their interracial marriage is attacked in the *Christian Leader*. He is never settled but works for the Boston Urban League; she spends 33 years working for the UCA and UUA.
- 1942 – Rev. **William H. Floyd** with the support of Rev. Joe Barth establishes an African-American congregation in Miami and AUA makes a contribution to cover rent. **Alvin Neeley Cannon** while attending Meadville Lombard participated in a black and white cooperative in a racially restricted area. Subsequently he graduated from Starr King, but in 1945 is denied fellowship because of lack of opportunities. AUA General Assembly passes Resolution on Race Relations.
- 1943 – Under the editorship of Stephen Fritchman the AUA Christian Register publishes “The Race Issue.” At the AUA General Assembly Walter White, the Executive Secretary of the NAACP, delivers the Ware Lecture. Homer A. Jack is one of the founders of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). The UCA adopts the “Affirmation of Social Principles” which states, “[W]e must recognize that today Americans of Negro, Indian and Oriental descent... are suffering from unjust forms of discrimination.”
- 1944 – The Board of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas votes to “welcome Negroes into membership.” Cannon graduates from Starr King School for Ministry.
- 1946 – Encouraged by Grant A. Butler, the minister in Des Moines, Iowa, Cannon spends the spring there exploring the possibility of starting an African-American congregation there. It does not succeed but several African Americans join the church.

- 1946 – **Donna Sparrow**, wife of **Eugene Sparrow** (1921-1978), worked at the AUA while he attended Harvard Divinity School preparing for the Unitarian ministry.
- 1946 – **Nathan J. Johnson** (1905 -1968) joins University Unitarian Church in Seattle and goes on to serve two terms as president of the congregation. Donald S. Harrington, John Haynes Holmes successor at Community Church, preaches a sermon on race relations entitled “The White Problem.” Lewis A. McMee enrolls in Meadville Lombard Theological School.
- 1947 – Lewis McGee granted fellowship and with his wife, **Marcella Walker McGee** (1904-1997), and it helps found the interracial but predominately African Americans Free Religious Fellowship (FRF) on South Side Chicago. Kenneth Patton on a radio broadcast and later in a sermon entitled “Declaring for Color” resigns from the white race.
- 1948 – **Edward D. Smith-Green** (1888-1969) a customs agent, inventor and member of the Fourth Unitarian Society of Brooklyn, writing during Brotherhood Week in the *Christian Register* concluded: “Fitness, not race, is the test. Opportunity, not fusion, is the aim.” Rev. **Maurice Dawkins** (1921-2001) granted affiliated fellowship and becomes Minister of Education at the Community Church of New York. The AUA has 5 black UU ministers: 3 settled, 1 in a student pastorate. **Pauline McCoo** (1928-2007) joins the First Unitarian Society of Chicago beginning its process of integration; the UUA recognized her contribution by awarding her the Unsung Hero’s Award in 1999. The board of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles votes to affirm the congregation’s openness to all races. The predominately African-Americans Free Religious Fellowship (FRF) is founded on South Side Chicago with McGee serving as its first minister.
- 1949 – Rev. Eugene Sparrow graduates from a Harvard Divinity School, receives fellowship in the AUA but seeing no job opportunities takes a position as a college dean.
- 1950 – While it membership was never restricted All Souls (Unitarian) Washington D.C. welcomes it first African American members. The members of the the Church of our Father (Later the First UU Church of Detroit) vote against calling Eugene Sparrow as assistant minister. **Margaret Moseley** (1901-1997) activist and organizer serves as president of the Community Church of Boston and later chairs the board of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable.
- 1951–The First Unitarian Church of Richmond, Virginia votes to welcome African Americans.
- 1952 – American Unitarian Association establishes the Commission on Unitarian Intergroup Relations to study the “discrimination against Negroes within our churches.”

- 1953 – A. Powell Davies, minister of All Souls (Unitarian) delivers the sermon “The Shelter of Good Intentions” in which he pledges to not to patronize eating places and places of entertainment where Negroes are not admitted and distributes a list of non-segregated eating places. More than 40,000 copies are distributed.
- 1954 – **Whitney M. Young Jr.** (1921-1971) social worker, educator, administrator and activist joins the Atlanta Unitarian Church and later serves on its board. In the 1960s, independently from her brother, Professor **Arnita Young Boswell** (1920-2002), joins the First Unitarian Society of Chicago. Dawkins recruited for FRF but goes to People’s Independent Church of Los Angeles, one of the oldest and second largest community church in U.S. Rev. **Benjamin Richardson** (1914-1992) is taken into fellowship and is settles at FRF. The AUA Commission on Intergroup Relations which included the Rev. **Howard Thurman** (1899-1981) and Collymore reports that: One-third of the congregations responded and of these 170 societies 52 had AA members and 13 had more than 5. The report recommended that the AUA meet at Fisk following the annual race relations Conference. No action was taken. **William Y. Bell Jr.** (1910 - 1960) is hired as director of adult education and social relations for the Council of Liberal Churches (Universalist-Unitarian).
- 1955 – Collymore became first African American AUA Board member and served from 1954-57. He is followed by **Wade McCree** 1965-1969, **Edna Griffin** 1971-1978, **Dalmas Taylor** 1971-1979, **Gwendolyn Thomas** 1976-1987, **Loretta Williams** 1978-1979, **Gustavia Gash** 1983-1987, **Norm Lockman** 1983-1986, **Winifred Norman** - the granddaughter of Lewis Latimer, 1983-1991, **Edward Simmons** 1987-1995, **Leon Spencer** 1991-1999, **William Jones** 1993-2001, **Norma Poinsett** 1995-2003, **Adele Smith Penniman** 2001-2002, **William Sinkford** 2001-2009, **Tamara Payne-Alex** 2000-2009, **Charles Redd** 2003-2005, **Rosemary Bray McNatt** 2007-2010, **Natalia Averett** 2012 - current. Beacon Press publishes two seminal books on race (i.e. James Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son* and Kenneth Clark's *Prejudice and Your Child*).
- 1956 – Three UU ministers go to Montgomery to support the bus boycott. First Unitarian Society of Chicago invites King to speak and must move venue to Rockefeller Chapel. While serving both the American Humanist Association and Springfield fellowship McGee is refused call to Flint, Michigan a congregation that has five African American families but is also a federated congregation. Howard Thurman delivers the Ware Lecture. **Pauline Warfield Lewis** becomes DRE at 1st Unitarian Church of Cincinnati. King is the keynote speaker for the New York State Convention of Universalist. Isaiah Jenkins granted preliminary fellowship. *Christian Register* survey with a 55.8% response rate i.e. 287 of 514 that 80 had African American members with them being active as officer in 49.

- 1957 – All Souls Unitarian in Washington D.C. hired **Bernice Bell Just** as Director of Religious Education. UCA “Declaration of Social Principles” recognizes “the worth of the person regardless of race, creed or standing...” and goes on to specifically outline support for “Civil Rights” and “School Integration.” Jenkins resigns fellowship.
- 1958 – **William R. Jones** (1933 – 2012) fellowshiped and serves as asst. minister in Providence RI. Rev. **David H. Eaton** (1932-1992) approaches AUA president Dana Greeley and is told: “I’d love to have you but we’ll have trouble settling you.” McGee called to be Associate Minister to the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles. Unitarian Church of Arlington, VA received bomb threat.
- 1960 – Marcella McGee elected to UUWF Board. Sparrow becomes Director of Field Service for the Midwest UU Congregations and two years later left the ministry for good, first working for several Human Relations Commissions before becoming a college professor.
- 1961 – McGee becomes Minister of Chico, CA Fellowship and thus the first African American senior minister of a white congregation since Clarence B. Thompson. When the CORE annual training conference is held at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, VA the driveway is strewn with tacks and the county tries to prevent meeting.
- 1962 – Richardson leaves FRF to become a professor at DePaul University. **Harold B. Jordan** is elected to the Board of All Souls D.C. and in 1964 becomes chair of its Board of Trustees. The Midwest Conference eliminates Sparrow's position. The home of Brooks Walker the UU minister in Canoga Park, CA is bombed.
- 1963 – **Henry Hampton** (1940-1998) hired as UUA Assoc. Director of Information and Publicity remains at the UUA until 1968. At the UUA General Assembly held in Chicago a resolution requiring congregations to adopt a non-discrimination clause is defeated, but a subsequent resolution encouraging it of existing congregations and requiring it of new ones passes. It also established the “Commission on Race and Religion.” 1600 UUs participate in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
- 1964 – Three Hundred and eighty-six UU ministers petition the U.S. Senate to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Bill. Over 35 UU students and 5 UU ministers participate in the Mississippi Summer Project. In the Fall nearly a dozen UU ministers volunteer for the Mississippi Delta Project.
- 1965 – Following the shooting of **Jimmy Lee Jackson** and the beating of voting rights protesters UUs respond to MLK Jr. called to come to Selma. The Rev. James Reeb, part of the first wave, dies after being clubbed. More UUs including Lewis McGee and the UUA Board come to Selma; subsequently Viola Liuzzo, another UU is killed.
January 1- 9: UUA Civil Rights Survey Team of four traveled through deep South.

- February 8: UU ministers Ira Blalock and Gordon Gibson arrested while protesting for voting for African Americans in Selma.
- March 6: Concerned Citizens marched on Dallas County Courthouse of these 72 white Alabamans 36 were UUs.
- March 9: 60 UUs joined Dr. King in march to Pettus Bridge. James Reeb, Orloff Miller and Clark Olsen are attacked. Reeb is fatally injured.
- March 11: James Reeb dies.
- March 13: UUA Board adjourns meeting and reconvenes in Selma to attend in memorial service for James Reeb. The home of Albert D'Orlanda the UU minister in New Orleans is bombed.
- March 14: Reeb Memorial service in Selma.
- March 16: Reeb Memorial service in Washington D.C.
- March 17: Reeb Memorial service in Boston.
- March 25: March to Montgomery concludes with over 30,000 in total and several hundred UUs joining in for the last day. Subsequently UU Viola Liuzzo was assassinated.
- March 26 – September 15: Fifteen volunteers served as the “Unitarian Universalist Presence in Selma.”
- May 27: Judge Wade H. McCree elected to UUA Board and position of vice moderator.
- August 20: Episcopal seminarian and Selma volunteer Jonathan Daniels murdered.
- August 23: Donald Thompson UU minister in Jackson, MS is shot but survives.
- October 20: Murderers of Viola Liuzzo acquitted.
- December 10: Four assailants of James Reeb acquitted.
- 1966 – Dr. **Martin Luther King Jr.** delivers the Ware Lecture. **Margaret Williams** follows Bernice Just as Director of Religious Education at All Souls D.C. UUA hires **George Johnson**, a Methodist minister, as the James Reeb Civil Rights Worker. General Assembly adopts Resolution entitled “Consensus on Racial Justice.”
- 1967 - Black Unitarians for Radical Reform (BURR) was founded in August by black members of First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles and other Los Angeles area UU churches as a means of reforming the Unitarian Universalist faith to be more inclusive of Blacks. The UUA Commission on Race and Religion, chair by **Cornelius McDougald**, convenes the Emergency Conference on the Black Rebellion. Approximately 150 people attend. Instigated by BURR 30 of the thirty-seven African Americans withdraw to form a black caucus afterwards called Black UU Caucus (BUUC). Campbell, a teacher at the Putney School, is settled part-time in Amherst, MA. The UUA Goals Report finds: 11% of UUs say being black would improve a minister’s effectiveness, 63% said it would make no

- difference and 27% said it would hamper. The corresponding percentages for women were: 5%, 48% and 47%.
- 1968 – The National Conference of Black Universalist is held in Chicago with 207 attendees. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated. Black Affairs Council (BAC) and FULLBAC its white support group as well as Black and White Alternative (BWA) are formed. **Carl B. Stokes** mayor of Cleveland delivered the Ware Lecture and the Cleveland GA committed one million dollars to BAC. Revs. **John Frazier, Jr.**, **Thomas Payne** (1942-2001) and **Mwalimu Imara** (nee Renford Gaines) are granted fellowship. Imara is settled in Urbana, IL. There are 8 African American ministers and ca. 1500 laity. At his request George Johnson leaves his position as James J. Reeb Field Worker.
- 1969 – David H. Eaton is called to All Souls UU Church in D.C. BUUC and its supporters walk out of Boston General Assembly. **Joseph Samples** 1969-1975 and **Harold Wilson** 1969-1970 are elected to the UUA Commission on Appraisal and are followed by Norma Poinsett 1971-1981, Dalmas Taylor 1979-1987, **Mark Morrison-Reed** 1983-1991, **O'Ferrell Nelson** 1987-1991, **Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley** 1993-1999, Charles Redd 1999-2005, **Janice Marie Johnson** 2001-2003, **Arthur Morrison** 2005-2006, **Jacqui C. Williams** 2006- 2011. Rev. **Harold Wilson** granted fellowship and served in Walnut Creek as co-minister from 1968-1972. Frazier called to the Black Humanist Fellowship of Liberation in Cleveland.
- 1970 – Imara called to Arlington Street Church in Boston. BAC disaffiliates from the UUA.
- 1973 – **Henrietta McKee** 1969-1970, becomes the first African American elected to the UUA Nominating Committee. She is followed by Cornelius 1981-1983, **Etta Green Johnson** 1983-1987 David Eaton 1985-1989, **Sayre Dixon** 1989-1993, **Charles Yielbonzie Johnson** 1991-1995, **Daniel Aldridge** 1993-1997, **Michelle Bentley** 1993-1997, **Laura Spencer** 1997-2001, **Hope Johnson** 2005-2009, **James Coomes** 2003-2007, Leon Spencer...
- 1974 – Imara leaves Arlington Street for Ben Frat. Frazier leaves Cleveland.
- 1977 – Thomas E. Payne begins working for the Benevolent Fraternity of UU Congregations (Later named UU Urban Ministries.)
- 1979 – Rev. **Jesse Jackson** delivers the Ware Lecture. UUA President Eugene Pickett convenes a meeting of all African American ministers.
- 1980 – The UUA undertakes an “Institutional Racism Audit.” Skinner House publishes *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*.
- 1981 – Rev. **Yvonne Chappelle Seon** is the first African American woman granted fellowship. **Vernon Jordan** delivers Ware Lecture.
- 1982 – Rev. **Adelle Penniman-Smith** is second African American woman granted fellowship. Network of Black UUs is formed. It meets primarily at GA.JPD

- posthumously awards **William Harris** of the UU Church of Harrisburg the district Unsung Hero Award.
- 1983 – The UUA Commission on Appraisal issues: *The Empowerment Controversy: One Denomination's Quest for Racial Justice 1968-1972*.
- 1984 – Jordan School closes.
- 1985 – The UUA “Black Concerns Working Group” is established. Congresswoman **Shirley Chisholm** delivered Ware Lecture.
- 1986 – Yvonne Seon is founding minister of Sojourner Truth, a new congregation in Southeast Washington D.C. Rev. **Michelle Bentley** is granted fellowship.
- 1987 – Rev. **Mark Morrison-Reed** chairs the Department of Ministry African American Affirmative Action Task Force, which is staffed by **Jacqui James**, Worship Resources Coordinator, and **Mel Hoover**, Director of Faith in Action Dept. This task force developed the Beyond Categorical Thinking program and called the conference of African American UU religious professionals from which AAUUM emerged.
- 1988 – African American Unitarian Universalist Ministries (AAUUM) is founded. There are 17 African American ministers. Rev. **Charles Johnson** (later Yeilbonze Johnson) is founding minister of Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, OK.
- 1989 – Rev. **Dan Aldridge** founded the Thurman Hamer Ellington congregation in Decatur, GA. *How Open the Door? The African American Experience in Unitarian Universalism*, an adult RE curriculum is published. Stories about African American UUs are included in the other curricula produced by the UU Identity Curriculum Team. The COA “Quality of Religious Life...” study finds that when asked if being black would help, make no difference to or hinder a minister’s effectiveness UUs said: 3%, 71% and 26%. For women the corresponding percentages were: 9%, 78% and 13%; and for GLB 2%, 33% and 66%.
- 1991 – *Been in the Storm So Long*, a meditation guide made up of the writings of African American UUs is published.
- 1992 – Continental Congress of African American UUs held in Philadelphia. UUA Office for Racial and Cultural Diversity established.
- 1993 – **James Brown** is hired as the Southwest District Executive, the first African American to hold such a position. *Singing the Living Tradition* was published. The Hymnbook Resource Commission included **Fred Wilson** (later replaced by **T.J. Anderson**) and was staff by Jacqui James who was also the UUA Affirmative Action officer. Michelle Bentley becomes Meadville Lombard Dean of Students. **Marion Wright Edelman** delivers the Ware Lecture. The infamous Jefferson Ball is held at GA.
- 1994 – Rev. **William Sinkford** becomes UUA Director of Congregational and District Services and first African American on Executive staff.

- 1997 – The Journey Toward Wholeness resolution is passed by GA. Diverse Revolutionary UU Ministries (DRUUM) founded.
- 1999 – Rev. Adelle Penniman-Smith and Rev. **Kristen Harper** become the first regularly settled African American women to serve as senior pastor. **Qiyamah Rahman** becomes first female African-American DE when hired by the Thomas Jefferson District.
- 2000 – There are 26 African-American ministers.
- 2001 – Mark Morrison-Reed is first Afro-Canadian President of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Rev. Dr. **James Forbes** delivers the Ware Lecture. William R. Jones receives the award for Distinguish Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism. Bill Sinkford is elected first African-American president of the UUA.