



Dear BLUU Community & Supporters,

Since the September update, it feels as though our world continues to grow more unstable. Ecological disasters are amplified by structural and systemic inequalities that have gone unaddressed for too long. Terrorism from angry white men continues to take the lives of people while the world names it anything other than what it is.



And still, we must rise and face the day as it comes. There are children and elders to care for, and there are bills to pay and lives to be lived. And we must hold on to our dreams and keep building the world we want to see and live in, even as we continue to figure out how to live in the world as it is right now.

From our little BLUU corner, the less than great news includes saying goodbye to our Collaborative Organizer DiDi Delgado who resigned on Thursday, Oct. 5. We wish DiDi the best in her future endeavors! We will have updated information regarding the vacant BLUU Collaborative Organizer position out by Friday, Oct. 20.

Much more uplifting news is the unveiling of the next round of #BLUUMicro30, Creating Connections, which happened on Thursday, Oct. 5! You can find a recorded webinar explaining what it is here and you can download the Fall/Winter 2017 Toolkit to help you create connections with other Black UUs across the country here.

We're also thrilled to announce a BLUU Mid-America Revival! With financial support from the Mid-America Region, we are excited about this upcoming Spring event to take place in Kansas City, MO and we'll let you know more information, including a specific date after our December lead team organizing retreat!

Which brings me to the update about our next planning retreat. Most people may (or may not) know the story of BLUU - that we started as just six people wanting to create spiritual care and support for ourselves and to challenge our denomination to do serious work to dismantle white supremacy. We'll gather in Charlotte, North Carolina from Dec. 14 - 18 to create our organizing, structural and spiritual plan for 2018. We continue to shift from being a group of people with a dream to an organization with

resources! It's a process that has already been full of lessons, learning, and challenges. And we're still building a new way, so our time together in Charlotte will be deeply meaningful for us and impactful for the people we serve.

Specifically for Black UUs across the association, have you taken the BLUU Survey yet? We've gotten 108 responses and we're so thankful! We're closing the survey on Oct. 20th so please get your responses in before then! And if you don't identify as Black or of African descent, please help us spread the word to Black UUs that you may know! The responses to the survey are going to inform how we create our programming moving forward because the voices of Black UUs are integral to our work.

In Faith,

Lena K. Gardner
Executive Director
Black Lives of UU