

GA 2012 – A Justice GA in Phoenix, AZ

Dear friends,

At the August 26th UUA Board of Trustees meeting considerable time was spent in discussing our presence as a General Assembly of congregations in Phoenix in June of 2012. We are asking for your assistance now as we prepare for this event. A business resolution was passed in Minneapolis which makes several requests of the board including:

- Gather Unitarian Universalists for the purposes of witnessing on immigration, racial and economic justice—a “Justice” General Assembly, in which business is limited to the minimum required by our bylaws.
- Instructs the UUA Board to work in accountable relationship with Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Latina/o Unitarian Universalist Networking Association (LUUNA), EQUUAL ACCESS, Transgender Religious Professional Unitarian Universalists Together (TRUUST) and other stakeholders to identify measures that can be taken to increase safety and accessibility
- Calls on the UUA Board to direct the economic impact of our presence in Phoenix toward our partners and allies as much as is feasible; and
- Calls on the UUA Board to continue providing the resources needed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to stand in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives.

The full text is attached on the next page.

Additionally, a responsive resolution calling on the Board and staff to consider a number of conditions to be considered to create a Justice GA in 2012. That resolution is also attached at the end of this document.

We are requesting input from congregations (vis-à-vis their elected leadership), leaders, affiliates, interest groups and others to help us make informed decisions about what GA 2012 should be in order to provide concrete direction to the GA Planning Committee and staff. We are interested in your questions, comments, concerns and observations. This information will be shared with the Planning Committee and staff after review by the board.

You may send your input to secretary@uua.org and gamap@uua.org. It is our intention to review this information at the upcoming meeting of GAMAP (General Assembly and the Mission of the Association Partnership) so please respond by September 13th for their review.

With much appreciation,

The Board of Trustees
UUA

PHOENIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

(Adopted at GA 2010 Minneapolis, MN)

WHEREAS the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law—SB 1070—that runs counter to our first Principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person; and

WHEREAS the Association stands in solidarity with allies mobilizing in love against this divisive and oppressive legislation; and

WHEREAS we have been invited to enter into an historic partnership with Puente and National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON) to work for human rights and against racial profiling; and

WHEREAS the UUA Bylaws specify that the power to call and locate a General Assembly belongs solely to the UUA Board of Trustees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly hereby:

- calls on the UUA Board to gather Unitarian Universalists for the purposes of witnessing on immigration, racial and economic justice—a “Justice” General Assembly, in which business is limited to the minimum required by our bylaws—in June 2012, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona;
- calls on the UUA administration to work with leaders in Arizona UU congregations to establish an Arizona immigration ministry to partner with other groups in Arizona working for immigration reform to strengthen those partnerships in preparation for our arrival in 2012;
- recognizes that people with historically marginalized identities will be exposed to increased risk and inaccessibility, and therefore instructs the UUA Board to work in accountable relationship with Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Latina/o Unitarian Universalist Networking Association (LUUNA), EQUUAL ACCESS, Transgender Religious Professional Unitarian Universalists Together (TRUUST) and other stakeholders to identify measures that can be taken to increase safety and accessibility at the 2012 “Justice” GA;
- calls on the UUA Board to direct the economic impact of our presence in Phoenix toward our partners and allies as much as is feasible; and
- calls on the UUA Board to continue providing the resources needed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to stand in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives.

Responsive Resolution Regarding 2012 General Assembly

2010 Responsive Resolution

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board Report on the Business Resolution on Phoenix General Assembly 2012 calls for a gathering of Unitarian Universalists for the "purposes of witnessing on immigration, racial, and economic justice—a 'Justice' General Assembly,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association strongly urges the UUA staff, the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly Planning Committee to consider a number of conditions while planning for this "Justice" General Assembly in Arizona 2012. The Youth Caucus envisions a General Assembly in which:

- we gather in nonviolent protest with a focus on public witness and social action;
- appropriate consideration is given to make this General Assembly accessible for all participants;
- efforts are made to recognize the voices of delegates who choose not to attend General Assembly 2012 for reasons of safety or personal ethics;
- worship services, specifically a bridging celebration and multigenerational worships, are preserved;
- programming, including youth, young adult, and multigenerational programming, is educational, informative, and reflective of the spirit of a "Justice" General Assembly; and
- youth and young adults are involved as both participants and leaders throughout the process.