



Commission on Social Witness
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
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Dear Members and Leaders of Unitarian Universalist Congregations:

General Assembly is only a few weeks away. Now is the time to ensure that you and your other delegates are prepared to make the best use of this annual gathering of our Association. With this GA, we straddle the old and the new in our Study/Action Issue to Statement of Conscience process. Last year, you adopted a new system and with it, a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) on Peacemaking. This new system ensures that Peacemaking and whatever CSAIs you adopt in the future will be the focus of up to four years of our collective attention. You can check out the details at our website, www.uua.org/csw. As you debate, amend, and adopt or not the draft Statement of Conscience, “Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society,” you will bring to a close all issues under the old SAI to SOC process. Actions of Immediate Witness will still be in play at GA 2007!

How to prepare your delegates? Enclosed is an overview to copy, distribute, and discuss. The Delegates’ Guide to Social Witness gives you at a glance what you need to know to represent your congregation in the social witness processes at General Assembly. On the first day of GA, there will be workshops to further acquaint you with how to engage, and our CSW booth in the Exhibit Hall will be a hub of activity and information.

As we mobilize around the new Peacemaking CSAI, you’ll have a chance through workshops and more to link with other congregations. Remember, it’s the time between GAs that matters most of all. Your CSW is keeping that in mind in planning this GA’s workshops. Some of you are already engaged with our Peacemaking CSAI Core Team through the activities and resources they set forth in a mailing just a couple of months ago—also available on our website. This Core Team, co-chaired by John Hooper and Judy Morgan, anticipates engaging directly with you at GA, and there will be ample opportunities to do so. This is one of the benefits of a longer CSAI process—two full GAs to activate and mobilize before we move toward a Statement of Conscience. Be sure to slot into your GA schedule the Friday June 22 forum featuring Paul Rogat Loeb (*Soul of a Citizen, The Impossible Will Take a Little While*). And this is just the beginning.

Yes, the new system slows us down. Depth and perseverance are bywords. Yet it’s not too soon to consider what you’d like to see as a new issue of focus. New CSAI proposals are due October 1, 2007. Attached is the new Certification Form for your CSAI Proposal. This GA will provide two duplicate workshops to help you along in the proposal process.

I hope you’re as excited as I am about the Open Space Technology introduced at this year’s GA! It affords rich opportunities to mobilize around issues that impassion you. In this amazing space, social witness is an umbrella that opens wide!

Questions that can’t wait until GA? Write us at socialwitness@uua.org.

In faith that we can make a just difference together,
Jan

Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull
Chair, Commission on Social Witness