

**“Things do not change; we change.”**  
**Henry David Thoreau**

*We are going to Phoenix, not just to ask others to change, but to be changed - as individuals, as congregations and as a religious movement. As we prepare to go to Phoenix, we are called to reflect on our past efforts to bend the arc of the universe toward justice – both the successes and stumbles. We are once again drawn into a community where many of us are ill-prepared to speak the language or understand the culture, and yet we are called to come and bear witness to the deepest values of our faith – universal human dignity and the power of love to overcome oppression and fear. This is at the deepest core of our religious tradition, but it is founded on the transformation of our own hearts.*

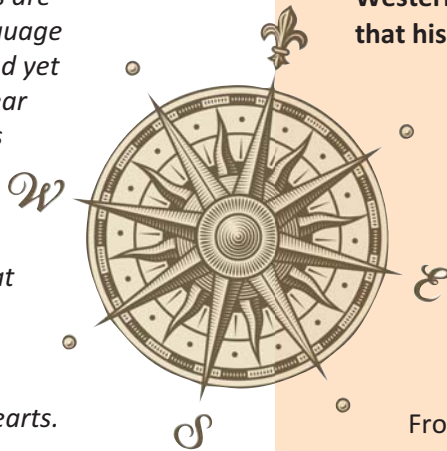
*Our actions in Phoenix will draw attention to our movement and our congregations which will lead some to seek us out and explore the possibility of joining our congregations. The best way to honor those who have come before and been turned away at our doors is to prepare now for those yet to come. Come, learn and prepare for this watershed event in our journey – the beginning of our second 50 years as Unitarian Universalists.*

Rev. Peter Morales, President UUA  
Gini Courter, Moderator UUA

Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder, Chair, GA Planning Committee

Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris, Accountability Group

Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray, AZ Immigration Ministry



## Doctrine of Christian Discovery

When Christopher Columbus first set foot on the white sands of Guanahani island, he performed a ceremony to "take possession" of the land for the king and queen of Spain, acting under the international laws of Western Christendom. Although the story of Columbus' "discovery" has taken on mythological proportions in most of the Western world, few people are aware that his act of "possession" was based on a religious doctrine now known in history as the Doctrine of Discovery. Even fewer people realize that today - five centuries later - the United States government still uses this archaic Judeo-Christian doctrine to deny the rights of Native American Indians.

From *Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice* by Steve Newcomb of the Indigenous Law Institute. [www.bit.ly/doctrineofdiscovery](http://www.bit.ly/doctrineofdiscovery)

Steve Newcomb will be at Justice GA.

## This GA Truly is a Team Effort

Everyone is working on Justice GA:

- UUA Board
- UUA Administration
- GA Planning Committee
- Accountability Group
- Arizona Immigration Ministry (AZIM)
- GA Program Development Group
- GA Volunteer Committee
- UUA Regions, Districts, and Congregations.



## There is Something for Everyone at Justice GA

- Our children will be engaged in UU community
- Our older children will be involved in a Justice Day Camp
- Our youth & young adults will be leading and working on every aspect of Justice GA
- Our elders will be providing counsel
- Our ministers will be providing care
- Our lay leaders will be resolved
- Our local partners will be supported, and
- Our interfaith partners will be inspired.

Everyone is welcome at Justice GA: first-timers, GA veterans, free-thinkers, leaders, introverts, scooter-users, skeptics, humanists, singers, families, delegates, and vegans.

Come, and make it your own. [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

## Our Mission

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly passed a resolution helping to focus our Justice GA on racial, economic, and migratory justice.

Programming will focus on education about these issues and the preparation of attendees to engage in meaningful witness and service both in Arizona and in their own communities.

## Our Faith in Action

As a religious community our work must be grounded in our faith. Our long-practiced religious process of learning, reflecting and doing compels us to engage in the work we have been invited to do by our partners in Arizona. We will be spending much of the time at GA learning, reflecting and worshipping. Our local partners have asked us to serve according to our traditions.

## Our Covenant with Partners

Our partners have requested that we:

- learn about the Doctrine of Discovery,
- bear witness in the Phoenix community,
- provide assistance through specific service opportunities,
- worship, learn, and grow together,
- pass a resolution to repudiate the *Doctrine of Christian Discovery* and to pressure our government to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and
- leave Arizona prepared to partner and work together for human rights in our own neighborhoods, when we return home.

## Regarding Civil Disobedience

The UUA, GA Planning Committee and Arizona Immigration Ministry are not planning actions of civil disobedience for Justice GA. In addition, our local partners have not asked us to engage in civil disobedience. Planning and attention is focused on creating powerful and effective witness events that will articulate our religious values and commitments to human rights and human dignity for all.

## Schedule of Events

subject to change

### Wednesday, June 20

- 1:30 p.m. Youth Caucus and Sponsor Orientation
- 3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 3:45 p.m. GA and Social Witness Orientation
- 4:00 p.m. Young Adult Orientation
- 5:45 p.m. Regional and CLF In-Gatherings
- 7:30 p.m. Opening Celebration, Doctrine of Discovery, and Plenary I
- 9:30 p.m. Witness

### Thursday, June 21

- 7:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices
- 7:45 a.m. Plenary II
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Education & Preparation #1
- 1:00 p.m. Reflection Groups
- 2:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal / Youth Caucus / Young Adult Caucus
- 3:15 p.m. Education & Preparation #2
- 5:00 p.m. Education & Preparation #3
- 8:00 p.m. Synergy Worship
- 9:45 p.m. Evening Event

### Friday, June 22

- 7:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices
- 7:45 a.m. Worship
- 8:30 a.m. Plenary III
- 9:00 a.m. Education & Preparation #4
- 10:45 a.m. Education & Preparation #5
- 1:00 p.m. Reflection Groups
- 2:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal / Youth Caucus / Young Adult Caucus
- 3:15 p.m. Education & Preparation #6
- 5:00 p.m. Service of the Living Tradition
- 7:30 p.m. Community Celebration with Partners

### Saturday, June 23

#### National Day of Witness and Service

- 7:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices
- 7:45 a.m. Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Witness & Service Education
- 9:00 a.m. Service Opportunities
- 1:00 p.m. Plenary IV
- 1:00 p.m. Service Opportunities
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal / Youth Caucus / Young Adult Caucus
- 4:45 p.m. Sing
- 5:15 p.m. Ware Lecture by Maria Hinojosa
- 7:00 p.m. Worship and Witness with Partners

### Sunday, June 24

- 7:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship with Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr.
- 11:45 a.m. Reflection Groups
- 12:45 p.m. Regional Take Home
- 2:15 p.m. Plenary V
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Celebration

## What can I do to get ready?

- Check out [www.uua.org/immigration](http://www.uua.org/immigration)
- Read *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan as part of a book group
- Join interfaith community partners
- Organize a “Common Read, Common Reflection, Common Action” group in your congregation
- Raise money to help traditionally marginalized UU attend Justice GA



[www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)