

## **Planning Committee Recommendation for 2013 General Assembly Site**

A site visit for GA 2013, was conducted by Fred Cole (Planning Committee Member), Jan Sneegas (Director, General Assembly and Conference Services), and Don Plante (GA Meeting Planner). Cities visited included Louisville, Kentucky, Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **The Planning Committee recommends the 2013 General Assembly be held in Louisville, Kentucky.**

### **General**

Louisville, (pronounced Louavull!), the largest city in Kentucky, is located on the banks of the Ohio River between St. Louis and Cincinnati. Average temperature in June is 74 degrees. In addition to Churchill Downs (Kentucky Derby racetrack), the city is home to the Louisville Slugger Museum (maker of Major League Baseball bats), the Muhammad Ali Center, the Louisville Science Center, Louisville Glassworks and the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, all of which (save Churchill Downs) are within walking distance of the convention center.

### **Travel**

Louisville sits at the intersection of three major interstates, I-65, I-71 and I-64 and is within a day's drive of half the U.S. population! The airport is seven minutes from downtown and offers over 100 flights daily on all the major airlines including Southwest and Midwest Airlines. Shuttle transportation to the hotels is available for approximately \$10 each way, cab fare is about \$17.

### **Convention Center**

The Kentucky International Convention Center (OCC) is located downtown and is adjacent to a six block entertainment district called Fourth Street Live. The center is not the most advantageously laid out but is adequate for our needs. The plenary hall space is column free (which is a plus) and can accommodate 5500 seats.

### **Housing**

Our housing block will consist of three major properties – the Marriott, the Hyatt and the Galt House all accessible to the convention center via skywalks. The Hyatt and Galt House have offered rates of \$145, the Marriott \$156 – **guaranteed for 2013!** There are lesser expensive properties within close proximity as well.

### **Food**

Fourth Street Live (the entertainment district) is adjacent to the convention center and offers over 40 different restaurants and bars, music venues etc. Prices are reasonable.

### **UU Support**

There is an interim minister at First Unitarian Church (membership 232). Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church has 237 members and is lead by the Rev. Elwood Sturtevant. Rev. Todd Eklof is the minister at Clifton Unitarian Church which has 60 members. None of the ministers were able to meet with the site selection team.

## **Summary**

### *Advantages of Louisville*

- Attractive, manageable mid-size city
- Guaranteed economical hotel rates for 2013
- \$10,000 cash incentive from the convention and visitor's bureau
- Economical and accessible food options
- Compact package of hotels in close proximity to convention center
- Heartland District – GA was last there in 1996 (Indianapolis)

### *Disadvantages of Louisville*

- “Greening” efforts are just now beginning to be a matter of policy
- Local UU congregational support level was not assessed