

Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee
Conference Call Meeting Notes
August 30, 2012

Present Members: Wendy von Zirpolo, *Co-chair*; David Slavin; Benjamin Gabel; Carrie Stewart; Tracey Robinson-Harris; Jonipher Kwong;

Not Present: Taquiena Boston, *President's Representative*; Walter LeFlore; Scott McNeil; Alex Kapitan, *Staff Support*

Start Time: 5:00 PM Eastern Time

End Time: 6:30 PM Eastern Time

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Actions
Opening reading – David	David shared a reading by Frederick Douglass	
Reading from our covenant – Ben	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that we are each and collectively “works in progress,” and that there is no one “right answer.” Speak our truth in constructive and civil ways. 	
Check-in – Wendy	Committee members checked in.	
General Assembly debrief – Wendy	<p>Reflections on the Justice GA experience: Fabulous; vigil felt like “we have arrived,” “full circle moment”; worship on Sunday was “out of the park”; passing on the faith to the future; achieved much of what it set out to do; process around Doctrine of Discovery felt troubling despite the passing of the resolution; good way to use the opportunities of GA and showing what we’re capable of; transformational; exceeded expectations; inspired congregational action right afterward; phenomenal ripple effects; affirming to witness partnership; felt so welcoming, hard to go home to individual congregation and its barriers to welcome; felt a little like we lost sight of how we got there and what it took to be accountable.</p> <p>Reflections on the GA workshop, and is there any unfinished business around the workshop?: Tremendous feedback; simple format with digestible tools is such a great thing; didn’t allow enough time for processing in the large group; most well-attended JTWTC workshop in recent years; ability to easily take it home was great; many congregations now planning to use the tool; highly effective; Taquiena, Jonipher, and Scott’s demonstrations were extraordinary; receptivity of participants was very high; enormously successful.</p> <p>Wendy invited thoughts on any next steps that seemed in order. Carrie: Toolkit for folks? David: Could be developed as a spiritual practice in UU communities; would like it to be on the agenda for the fall meeting. Wendy: Perhaps we could talk about it at the fall meeting as follows: Do we want to make sure that what we did is recorded? Do we want to offer it as a training? How would we keep it alive?</p>	GA workshop will be an agenda item at the fall meeting, to discuss: Do we want to make sure that what we did is recorded? Do we want to offer it as a training? How would we keep it alive?

<p>JTWTC next steps – Wendy</p>	<p>Wendy: If we were able to divvy up the tasks and get subcommittee work going before the fall meeting, we should go there. If we would rather form those subcommittees face-to-face, that would be a different course of action.</p> <p>Wendy reviewed the “JTWTC 2012-13 Focus” document (see 6-13-12 minutes, Appendix).</p> <p>Wendy: One possible way to proceed would be to form 3-person subgroups that could meet via Skype and then report back to the group at the fall meeting. Reminder: we decided subgroups would not have ownership. Proposed a straw poll of who might be interested in which subgroup, and that Skype meetings could take place in September.</p> <p>Tracey: Wondering whether this Justice GA is a reason to look at the tasks we’ve laid out because GA may have been part of the creation of an alternative narrative about who we are and why we gather and what we do. Looking for a hook to propel this forward with some connection to something critical that has just occurred—might make it easier to frame questions, tell stories, and invite others in. Much agreement from committee members. Tracey: For example, perhaps Jonipher’s post-GA story might be a starting point for the alternative narrative.</p> <p>Wendy: We could go ahead with 3-person subgroups and/or have next phone call really dig into GA and talk about how it changes things and/or dig into the 3 next focuses via a googledoc or otherwise off the phone.</p> <p>David: Another component of GA is Michelle Alexander—hundreds of people signed up to do something about mass incarceration and <i>The New Jim Crow</i> was selected as the next common read. Feels like seismic rumblings that we should start measuring. Wendy: This could be part of our GA conversation.</p> <p>Wendy will send an email listing the subgroup topics and asking folks to respond with their participation preferences. Also promised to have a preliminary fall meeting agenda set out in time for the next phone meeting.</p>	<p>Wendy will send an email listing the subgroup topics and asking folks to respond with their participation preferences.</p> <p>Wendy will have a preliminary fall meeting agenda set out in time for the next phone meeting.</p>
<p>Budget conversation – Wendy</p>	<p>Wendy: We don’t have the budget to have two meeting and go to GA in one fiscal year. Wanted to ask whether the committee feels the need to go to GA as a committee or not, because that affects our yearly planning.</p> <p>Carrie thinks we need to be at GA. Jonipher doesn’t necessarily see it as an either/or thing. What if we continued the model of asking people ahead of time if they had coverage ability elsewhere and/or asked JTWTC members what they would need coverage for? Ben: Agrees with Jonipher. Wendy: Wants to make sure we don’t create a class accessibility issue. David: Felt like we could do more at GA than we did this year. Would like the committee to plan to take charge of a significant section of GA—it seems like a place we can make an impact. Tracey: Given the tasks we’ve set ourselves it feels important to have a presence at GA. Trying to meet at GA would feel counterproductive to having a presence. Might not need all members present.</p> <p>Wendy would like to look into what the real costs would be for various options. Jonipher volunteered to work with Alex on that. Also appreciates it when we can be honest about how we</p>	<p>Jonipher volunteered to work with Alex on the budget question, exploring options for meetings and GA coverage.</p>

	can balance out our resources and make ends meet creatively.	
Demographics item – David	David sent around an agenda item on UUA demographics. Rachel Walden mentioned that she could use the committee's help in updating the data that exist. We had talked about doing a survey.	Everyone please re-read David's email (sent 8/23), and we will discuss at a later date.
Process observations – Ben	Ben offered process observations.	

Respectfully submitted,
 Alex Kapitan
 September 10, 2012