

Open UUA Committee

Notes from January 23, 2013 Conference Call

The call began at 8:30 PM EST.

Attendees: Sam Trumbore, Chair, Cheri Cody, Dick Jacke, and Jennifer Carver. There were no observers.

Jennifer agreed to take notes.

The call began with opening words and a brief check-in.

Discussion moved into the agenda items as follows:

1. Discussion of Google Docs and Calendar as a way of implementing openness
Committee members summarized their experience with using Google Docs and Calendar for the Open UUA Committee meetings. Dick and Cheri felt that Google Docs worked ok. Cheri has used Google Docs for her work, including public folders. Jennifer had difficulty keeping up with the links and learning how the file-sharing works.
2. Report from Dick on conversation with Kasey at the UUA
Dick reported that documents posted on Google Docs would not be part of searches on the UUA website and asked how important that would be. Sam pointed out that Google Docs would be for working documents, and once they are finalized (minutes, etc.), they would be posted to the UUA website.
3. Alternatives to Google Docs such as Dropbox
The committee discussed other options, including Dropbox. Members had various levels of experience with Dropbox and noted that many people like Dropbox. Cheri pointed out that people might not have access to Dropbox from work, as some workplaces have blocked access to Dropbox. Jennifer asked for clarification on the issue we are trying to address: a work space for working documents or a place to post agendas, minutes, and/or other committee documents.

Sam suggested that the Open UUA Committee could recommend tools for other committees to use for their work (working documents and providing information). He stated that the GA Planning Committee may have used some of these tools. If the Open UUA Committee provides committees with a tool that would make their work to post information and share document easier, committees would be more likely to do use it and provide more access to their documents.

Jennifer suggested that the Open UUA Committee conduct a survey of UUA committee chairs to find out what they technologies/applications they are using for communications and sharing information. Dick pointed out that there are two components we're interested in: communication among themselves and communication out to the rest of the UUA. Jennifer agreed to contact UUA staff regarding availability of a Survey Monkey account and develop a draft survey for review by committee members. This will be a good step to actually make contact with the committees. This may delay implementation of the letter developed by Dick. Calls may be needed to increase participation in the survey.

4. Payment for GA 2012 expenses
Sam has discussed with UUA staff and will provide Jennifer with a check for her reimbursement that is due.

5. Monitoring the Open UUA Listserv

Sam and Dick are both moderators. There is little activity on the list. Dick will moderate the list. The committee's portion of the UUA website has been updated. Sam will work out with Kasey how to put up agendas/dates on website with links to Google docs. Sam will also create a Dropbox folder and try that to post the next agenda.

6. GA business

The committee will meet at GA. If a member can't make it, we could make it work to have someone call in. We will strive to plan our meeting times into weekend spots to assist with travel. Sam will check with Nancy Lawrence on plans for committee training so we can be there and provide information about openness. UUA board also meets at GA. The committee also discussed possibly observing the post-GA UUA Board meeting.

The committee is supposed to provide a report to the UUA Board. We would like to have some information to report about compliance by GA. Sam will check on putting information in the Board packet.

7. Other items?

Sam will get updated list of committee chairs.

Check-out: Committee members observed that we kind of meander in our discussions and that it is hard to hear. We will consider trying Skype for the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 27, 2013 at 8:30 PM EST.

The meeting adjourned immediately following the closing words.