

**Vice Moderators
Report January 2014**

Board Workshops & Mini Assemblies at GA2014 (Providence)

The Board has 24 workshop slots available for GA2014 in Providence. We will have filled these slots as follows:

| Program Title | # of slots | Contact First | Contact Last | Contact Org |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| All Hearts on Deck: UUA Leadership | 1 | Anne | Vogt | Appointments Committee (co-hosting with Nominating Committee) |
| Enacting the Principles & Purposes: The Board's Story | 1 | Natalia | Averett | Board of Trustees |
| Business Mini-Assemblies | 4 | | | Board of Trustees |
| Budget Hearing | 1 | | | Board of Trustees |
| Meet the Candidates & Board | 1 | | | Board of Trustees |
| Commission on Appraisal Hearing | 1 | Nathan | Hollister | Commission on Appraisal |
| Mini Assembly on proposed Actions of Immediate Witness | 3 | Susan | Goekler | Commission on Social Witness |
| Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2014-2018 | 2 | Susan | Goekler | Commission on Social Witness |
| Hearing on the Newly Selected Congregational Study/Action Issue | 1 | Susan | Goekler | Commission on Social Witness |
| Reproductive Justice: Covenant and Context | 1 | Caitlin | Cotter | Commission on Social Witness |
| Immigration as a Moral Issue SOC Implementation Workshop | 1 | Rev David | Breeden | Commission on Social Witness |
| Commission on Social Witness Sermon Award | 1 | Christina | Sillari | Commission on Social Witness |
| Divestment and Beyond: Affecting Social Change via Investments | 1 | David | Stewart | Committee on Socially Responsible Investing |
| Ministerial Credentialing in a Changing World | 1 | Wayne | Arnason | Ministerial Fellowship Committee |

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|---|---|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Generous Spirits: Transforming Stewardship | 1 | Darcy | Roake | Stewardship & Development |
| Getting Funded By The UU Funding Program | 1 | Hillary | Goodridge | UU Funding Program |
| Presidential Search Committee Hearing | 1 | Jacqui C. | Williams | UUA Presidential Search Committee |
| Structures of Love & Justice | 1 | Donna | Harrison | Board of Trustees & CCCE |

Logistical information for GA2014 (Providence)

- All board members should plan to attend the "Meet the Candidates / Meet the Board of Trustees" workshop. We will introduce the candidates and board members. We will do a short presentation of the big questions the board is working on and then have time for questions.
- We are planning a series of events to help us gather information about our Transforming GA initiative. These are detailed in the report from the Transforming GA working group in the Board Packet. All Board members who are available should plan to attend the workshop / mini assembly on the Transforming GA proposals.
- We will also have an opportunity to help get some key messages out to the delegates at the "Let's Talk" session that will be hosted by the GAPC on Thursday and the Regional Welcoming sessions that the DPA will be hosting on Wednesday.
- The Linkage working group will be organizing linkage events with Youth Caucus and the Young Adult Caucus. Again, we will ask that all trustees who are available participate.
- We will have a trustee GA Agenda that highlights all of the events that the Board is sponsoring. This will be available in June.

Registration and lodging reservations for the Board and staff will be available in early February. Please register before general registration opens on March 3 as hotels do fill up. You will receive an email notification when registration opens, and Stephanie Maron will provide us with instructions at that time for how to register and how to get our hotel bills billed to the UUA account rather than to our personal credit cards.

Right now it looks like the Board meeting will be at the Omni. We expect that Jim's suite be in the Biltmore, as will most events that include food and beverage due to the security arrangements at the Omni which make it more complicated for those who are not Omni guests to get into the hotel.

GAPC Feedback on Transforming GA Initiative

At the January GAPC meeting, I provided the GAPC a preliminary overview of the ideas that the Board will be considering at its January meeting on the topic of transforming GA. Overall there was a lot of support for the general direction, especially regarding the ideas for improving the accountability of GA and making it a more meaningful event from a governance perspective. They had a variety of comments and practical questions about what might happen, as the

decisions that we make over the next several years have the potential to significantly impact their work.

The major practical concern they raised was around how we might implement a move to biennial GAs if that is what the Board and the delegates ultimately decide to do. My conclusion after listening to their concerns is that the earliest we might be able to move to an "off year" for biennial GAs is 2019 and possibly even 2020. The reason for this is that commitments to the convention centers and hotels for events as large as ours are made 4 to 5 years out.

- Jan Sneegas informed us at the GAPC meeting that the contracts in New Orleans are already committed, and we would not be in a good position to not go without financial penalties. In addition, there are many non-financial reasons for going to New Orleans in 2017.
- The Board has previously voted on Kansas City as the site for GA 2018, and we are rapidly approaching the time with 2018 will also be fully committed. Since we won't know for sure what whether we are moving to biennial GAs until 2015 at the earliest, moving away from annual GAs in 2018 would probably involve financial penalties.
- Jan also informed us that she needs to soon start looking for a location for GA2019 if we are going to have a national GA in 2019. If we do have a national GA in 2019, the longer we wait the fewer choices we will have for location. I have asked Jan to help the Board understand the risks of waiting until June 2015 (when a vote of the delegates will have occurred) to make a commitment for a national GA in 2019 should it be needed. Not knowing yet what she will tell us, it is quite likely that should the delegates decide in Portland to move to biennial national GAs, the earliest off year will be 2020.

The GAPC was very appreciative of being included in the discussions early on, and they fully understood that the concepts I presented might not be what resulted from the January Board meeting.

Planning for Portland (GA2015)

The GAPC January meeting was held in Portland, the site of GA2015, and while there the GAPC hosted a reception with congregational leaders from the Portland area. A variety of really great ideas came up at this reception about how we can make GA in Portland special. The history of Unitarians in Portland is a long one, and Unitarians have been very influential in the city both institutionally and as individuals. In addition, First Unitarian in Portland will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2016, and so GA2015 will be an opportunity to start the countdown to this happy event in the life of their congregation.

We expect that Portland will be a large GA - it was the last time that we were there. The Board will certainly be promoting the significant decisions we will as the delegates to make as a reason for congregations to send delegates to GA2015.