



Commission
on
Social Witness

Meeting Minutes
CSW Conference Call
May 15, 2017

Present: Susan Goekler, Chair, Caitlin Cotter,
Christina Sillari, Jyaphia Christos- Rodgers
a few GA delegates joined us

1. Jyaphia provided a reading for our chalice lighting and we had a brief welcome and check-in.
 2. Reviewed and approved the October and March minutes.
 3. Christina agreed to be note taker and Caitlin agreed to be process observer.
 4. Discussed all of our workshops and sessions at GA.
- Caitlin presented the workshop plan for social witness workshop that she and Phia created. We brainstormed how to implement the workshop and deadlines for nominating and dot voting. We decided we need a planning session before this workshop to clarify the topics and how we will facilitate the session. Deadline for dot voting will be Thursday at 5:00 PM. Alert for social witness workshop issues will be sent on Thursday night.
 - Meeting for SOC will occur on Thursday evening at 6:30 until we are done.
 - Collective Liberation Workshop (Susan and Jyaphia) - people are already commenting on proposal that was made. Need to have a broad perspective. Susan and Phia need to meet before GA to continue creating the workshop. What are we learning? How does this impact our history?
 - SOC mini assembly is a double session. Susan will do an introduction and then we will divide group and each group take a section of the statement and use the amendment forms. Group discussion and straw polling around level of support for suggested change. Assignments are Caitlin will do introduction and intersectionality; Christina will do the religious grounding and moral imperative; Susan will do individual actions; and Phia will do rest of actions. Make it clear that more emphasis regarding changes will be given to groups that work together rather than individuals. Susan will work with Richard to write up alerts for SOC and share with the rest of us for feedback.
 - Exhibit booth will be set up by Kat.
 - We have four volunteers assigned and Phia will plan the schedule for the volunteers. Each volunteer needs to do 14 hours.

5. Discussion of meetings for CSW at GA.

6. Discussion of anticipated tension at GA: Christina shared her sense of how people at GA might be very vulnerable and emotional because of what is going on in the world and with the UUA. How can we remain a calm presence individually and as a group? Phia asked how we can help soothe the tension regarding the choice of the SOC last year. Susan spoke about the fact that we are not doing AIWs and we are offering workshops to address people's passion about justice. When the question arose about how to respond if people objected to session that excluded white people, we agreed to refer them to ARE and not to BLUU or DRUUM. Caitlin feels positive because she trusts the leadership that is in place.

7. Caitlin and Christina will be leaving so they need to think about what they need to pass on to the new commissioners taking their place.

8. Process observations by Caitlin. Caitlin shared closing words.

We adjourned at 9:20.