



**Commission on Social Witness Meeting  
Notes  
June 21-27, 2016**

**Tuesday, June 21**

Susan Goekler, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter, Kat Casebolt, and Christina Sillari (via phone) met starting at 7:30 p.m.

We reviewed the CSW's agenda for GA.

We discussed the process for the CSAI vote and the CSAI mini-assembly.

We discussed volunteer orientation.

We agreed to meet Thursday for a check-in over dinner.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 22**

No Meeting

**Thursday, June 23**

Susan Goekler, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter, Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, Kat Casebolt met over dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Christina Sillari called in, but the noise level made her participation impossible.

After debriefing the CSAI mini-assembly, we reviewed processes for the CSAI vote in the morning, how things were going in the exhibit hall, and the number of AIWs submitted (11).

We adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, June 24**

The Commission on Social Witness convened at 7:30pm with the following attendees:

Commissioners: Susan Goekler, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter, Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, and Christina Sillari (on video chat)

Administrative Assistant: Kat Casebolt

Volunteer: Jenni Keeler

- 1) Counted signatures for the eight submitted AIWs while checking for the required geographic diversity across congregations. Of the 11 turned in at the CSW booth on Thursday, 3 were never submitted with signatures.

- 2) Debriefed the first two days of the General Assembly.
  - CSAI voting: The process for a runoff vote was not clear, so some delegates left before the runoff vote. There was frustration that the result might have been different if people understood when the runoff vote would occur.
    - We will recommend to the Moderator that the runoff vote be on the business agenda.
    - Could we be involved in the Moderator's script and/or see the script before the sessions that involve the commission?
    - Could there be a speaker system in the Exhibit Hall to notify people of an upcoming vote?
  - CSAI General Session Discussion: We heard some concern that the fair play rule (speaking only in favor of a proposed CSAI, not against another) was violated when proponents for one issue claimed to be the core issue for all the proposed issues. We need to be clearer about what it means to speak negatively about a CSAI – we can amend the Proposer's Guide.
  - Withdrawal of a proposed CSAI. The proposer of one possible CSAI withdrew his support during the General Session and asked supporters to vote for a specific other issue. No one else was at the mike to speak in favor of the issue at the time, but some advocates asked to speak later, out of turn, which the Moderator denied. The proposer did not suggest this action during the Mini-assembly, so there was no way for the CSW to say this was out of order. Not sure what to do to prevent such in the future.
  - Prior to the CSAI discussion time at the General Session, a person requesting ADA accommodation parked by a mike before the proponents who had planned to speak stood (they were by the mike already). No commissioner was at the mike at that time, the teller did not know what to do. The teller asked a member of the GA Planning Committee, who responded (without consulting CSW) to let the person line up at the mike. Because the person with a disability was visually impaired, that raised a question about how much of the GA materials are accessible to someone with visual impairment. Suggestions:
    - Meet with the tellers beforehand (Susan thought she had, but it was with head usher, not head teller)
    - Ask GA Planning Committee to consult with CSW before ruling on CSW-related issues.
    - Place Commissioners at mikes at beginning of General Session – do not wait for the discussion to start.
    - Consult with parliamentarian prior to such votes to be sure Moderator and parliamentarian are on same page with process.
    - Include information about runoff procedures in CSW Alert.
  - Hearing on new CSAI
    - There were no people of color in the hearing and there was no specific person of color event going on at the same time. Jyaphia will notify Right Relations team of possible issue.
3. Selection of 6 AIWs. After reviewing the criteria for AIWs, the commissioners read each proposed AIW and separately scored them 1-5 per the criteria. After discussing the scores, those with the highest total scores were selected for presentation to the delegates:
  - Building Solidarity with Muslims
  - Stop the Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender Brothers and Sisters

- Some Guns, All Guns: Legislating Appropriate Restrictions
- Stop the TPP
- Support HR 40: "The Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
- Halt Drone Warfare

Commissioners divided up contacting proposers with results.

4. Susan asked whether there are issues that need to be addressed during this GA as a result of the CSAI voting and discussion.
  - Susan will let Jim Key know what we are hearing about concerns.

The meeting ended at 11:30pm.

### **Saturday, June 25**

We convened at 9:00 p.m.

Commissioners: Susan Goekler, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter, Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, and Christina Sillari (on video chat)

Administrative Assistant: Kat Casebolt

We went through each of the 3 proposed AIWs selected by the delegates for consideration and considered each proposed amendment to the three. The Commissioner who facilitated each mini-assembly led the discussion of amendments, indicating level of support for each in the mini-assembly. Christina shared those from the off-site delegates.

For unincorporated amendments, the CSW ordered them based on the perceived likelihood that delegates might want to consider them. Then Commissioners provided a rationale for the decision not to incorporate each.

After we finished the editing at 12:30 a.m., Richard and Susan stayed to prepare the CSW Alert.

When that was done at 2:30 a.m. we discovered that the hotel's internet was down for servicing, so we were unable to send the Alerts to FedEx for printing. That had to be done early Sunday and the job was so big Fed Ex could not get the requested number of copies made in time for the afternoon General Session on Sunday.

### **Sunday, June 26**

We met for dinner, but conducted no business. Susan Leslie (UUA Staff joined us) and met some Commissioners for the first time. We did ask Susan L to check into whether the UUA has an account with FedEx. It does not seem fair to ask volunteers to use personal credit cards for the CSW Alert printings.

### **Monday, June 27**

Susan Goekler, Caitlin Cotter, Richard Bock, Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, and Kat Casebolt met over breakfast, starting at 9 a.m.

Susan Goekler reminded Commissioners of the need to make travel arrangements for the CSW meeting the end of July – as early in July as possible. She will ask UUA Staff to authorize travel with the UUA travel agent. She also asked Commissioners to do the following prior to the meeting:

- Review the Escalating Inequality CSAI
- Review the Escalating Inequality Study Guide
- Select at least one resource from the Study Guide to read before the meeting
- Review the minutes from the CSW meeting in August of 2014 to see the process used to develop the last SOC.

Susan thanked Kat for her valuable service. We debriefed how the exhibit hall went and the need for volunteers next year, especially since there will be no AIWs. Kat thought that 3 volunteers would be enough. She praised this year's volunteers.

Adjournment at 10:00 a.m.

Notes by Kat Casebolt and Susan Goekler

Approved July 29, 2016