



MINUTES OF THE March 27, 2017 CONFERENCE CALL

Present: Susan Goekler, Chair, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter,
Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers and Christina Sillari

Chalice Lighting:

Susan called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Caitlin lit our chalice and provided opening words.

Check-in and welcome

Susan welcomed the group and all shared a brief check-in since our last meeting.

Minutes of the October and March Meetings

The minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting were accepted as presented. The minutes of the October 2016 meeting will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Recorder and Process Observer

Phia volunteered to be our process observer and Richard offered to take notes.

Update on 2017 GA CSW programs

- a. Sermon Contest: Christina reported that her experience contacting the ministers who were not chosen revealed that CSW needs to be more specific with our guidelines that the sermon topic should reflect our current SOCs. The sermon that we selected as the winner was written by the Reverend Julie Hamilton [Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara].
- b. Social Witness vision/AIW Alternatives: Caitlin shared various presentation options.
- c. Collective Liberation: the group heard about social witness criteria options being developed, the value of a broad structure, the need to find what social witness is at the congregational level, and other options. Susan and Phia shared their work thus far re objectives and new ideas not approached before. The discussion continued with an emphasis on the need to plan our workshops to be action oriented. One question: how do we wish to do

visioning in the future? It was suggested that we use the *CSW ALERT* at GA to solicit feedback – there being no AIWs this year there would be ample space for such an opportunity. This would give the delegates an opportunity to express their ideas about the future.

- d. The CSW Exhibit Hall Booth: Susan reported that she has met with Kat Casebolt re the needs for our booth. We will have a smaller booth. We will not need laptops or printers this year. The commissioners brainstormed ideas to attract delegates and attendees to our booth: an open format with a table at the rear and comfortable seating areas; multi-colored sticky notes; “Witness” ribbons; buttons; handouts; dot-vote system to decide on workshop topics were among the suggestions to be considered. We will have four volunteers to staff the booth in addition to Kat and the commissioners.

Update on assignments

- Susan reported about the plan for our meetings; we concluded that our current format works well.
- Room at GA: we will have a CSW meeting room – it will not be needed as much this year because there will be no AIWs to consider. Catering will be on an as-needed basis with snacks available.
- Richard shared his concern that recent emails focused on FY2018-2019 budget items. The group learned that the UUA was, in fact, working on a two-year budget format.
- The sermon contest was discussed earlier. Attention to more specific criteria will be part of the announcement for next year.
- Susan told the group that the UUA tech division has difficulty keeping an up-to-date list of email addresses for congregations as info constantly changes.
- Christina volunteered to tweak our ad in the UU World for the next issue. Susan will locate and send our most recent ad to the commissioners.
- Youth and Young Adult liaison – no report.
- Liaison w/DRUMM/ARE/BLUU – see Phia’s report below.
- Liaison on COA – no report.
- Liaison on GA Planning Committee – no report.
- Liaison with UUA Board on Vision for Social Witnessing – this led to our next agenda item.

New Vision for Social Witnessing – UUA Board Presentation**

This topic was led by Susan. Beginning with a statement developed and shared with the commissioners from Susan's January 27, 2017 report to us, we began with the concern about statements vs resolutions. Question: how can we get congregations and the youth caucus involved in creating social witness statements and resolutions? We recognized the importance of utilizing GA to get input for the creation of a new process. Also, how do we include UU's that are not affiliated with a congregation? We agreed that education and action are important to the process. Also noted was the question of the UUA's Commission on Appraisal's new book –will it impact CSW's work in any way?

As the group discussed the draft that Susan had sent, she began editing the statement to reflect our ideas. Her final draft will be sent to the commissioners for review before she brings it to the UUA Board in April, 2017. [see below for original draft]

Next Meeting:

Susan will send out a survey monkey after she meets with the UUA Board.

Process Observer:

Phia reported that the group displayed a lot of energy and positive creativity.

Adjournment:

Susan adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Bock

** The development of statements process would change completely. Congregations would submit ideas for needed statements to CSW. They would have to include a list of related statements that already exist and explain why those are not sufficient. We would say – yes draft a statement for consideration or No – not needed or not appropriate. They would then be responsible for drafting a statement using a format and guidelines that the CSW would establish. They would submit to CSW, which would review for uniqueness, consistency with other statements and positions, need, appropriateness, etc. Those we accept would go to delegates for consideration for adoption. No need to limit number or have them in competition with one another. Also no need for both SOCs and AIWs. This would mean no longer creating a study guide and no longer encouraging congregations to provide comments on CSAIs – there would be no CSAIs.