



UUA Fifth Principle Task Force

*Reformulating our General Assembly:
Status Quo Is Not An Option*

Task Force Charge & Timeline

To present two or more recommendations on the future configuration and content of General Assembly. Areas to be examined include but are not limited to:

- a) Off-site participation in GA, including voting
- b) Reconfiguration of GA content to include current pre-GA functions, i.e. leadership development and continuing education for laypersons and religious professionals
- c) GA frequency
- d) GA duration

Interim report: April, 2009

Final report: January 2010

Task Force Process to Date

- Task Force meetings since Jan 2008:
 - 5 in person
 - 6 conference calls
- Interviews/feedback from:
 - UUMA Executive Committee
 - District Presidents Association
 - District Staff
 - CSW, GA Planning Committee, Commission on Appraisal
 - UUA Board of Trustees
 - Workshops at six District Assemblies
 - Workshop at 2009 GA
 - Numerous individuals either in person, via email and through UUA lists
- Interviews of other denominations:
 - United Church of Christ
 - PCUSA (Presbyterian)
 - Episcopal Church of America
 - Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Values that inform our work

- Economic accessibility & sustainability
- Empowered delegates authorized to represent congregations
- Excellence in shared leadership & ministry
- Excellence in governance --
 - Business decisions reflect ultimate questions
 - Multi-generational participation & decision-making
 - Accountability between Association & congregations
 - Awareness and inclusiveness of AR/AO/MC concerns

A Governance Driven Conference

- Experience high powered, team-based learning
- Achieve accountability and transparency through structured conversations among delegate teams and Trustees
- Hear, question & discuss assessment reports from President on execution & results of strategic plans
- Offer responsive resolutions in energized, focused plenary sessions
- Elect Association officers. (Off-site voting technology will be used by duly authorized delegates who cannot attend)

UUA National Biennial Conference

What else?

- Feed our spirits with daily worship
- Feed our imaginations with keynote addresses
- Feed our bodies in fellowship with communal meals
- Provide childcare
- Change timing to August (closer to start of church year)



Imagining a Biennial UUA National Delegate Conference

Whose meeting is this?

Delegate Teams, UUA Board & Administration

Delegate Teams:

- Subsidized lay & clergy delegate teams
- Elected & certified by their congregation or board
- Teams can include unsubsidized alternate delegates
- At-large delegates selected by regions (clusters of districts)

No delegates from UUWF, UUSC, UU-UNO

No delegates from UUA Board of Trustees

UUA National Delegate Conference

Recommendations:

A. Biennial Delegate Assembly in odd years:

- Content is governance-focused. The Assembly is for delegate teams, UUA Board & Administration.
- 2.5 days over a weekend in August
- Smaller number of authorized delegates with delegate teams fully or partially subsidized by the UUA
- Settled ministers (one per congregation) part of the delegate teams
- Delegates elected and certified by their congregation or board serve in an accountable relationship with geographically neighboring delegate teams and with UUA trustees
- Some at-large delegates are selected by regions (clusters of districts)
- Teams can include alternate delegates without UUA subsidy
- Non-delegate observers pay a registration fee
- No delegates from associate member orgs or from the UUA Board of Trustees

UUA National Delegate Conference

Recommendations:

B. Same as “A” except that the 2.5 day delegate assembly is immediately preceded or followed by a 2-day program assembly:

- Content of the program assembly similar to current GA programming
- Non-delegate attendees pay registration fee without UUA subsidy
- Delegate’s registration for program assembly is paid by UUA subsidy. Delegate subsidy for room & board covers the delegate assembly only, not the program assembly.

UUA National Delegate Conference

Delegate Teams

- Core teams of delegates
- Seating in plenary arranged geographically
- Neighboring congregations seated together within districts and regions
- Intentional space on floor for teams to meet and work together

Know our neighbors to build UU community & effectiveness beyond the walls of our congregations

Financial Considerations

Funding the delegates (approx \$600K – 1.3 M)

- No registration charges for any delegates
- Delegates' expenses (travel, lodging, on-site meals) are fully paid by the Association for Fair Share congregations and regional delegates
- Merit Increase Congregations' delegates partially subsidized
- Remaining congregations pay delegate expenses

So a reasonable range for anticipated annualized cost to the Association for a fully subsidized delegate body is about \$400K to \$800K for a scenario in which a program assembly with paid registration immediately precedes or follows a biennial delegate assembly.

Delegate Selection

To have a functional deliberative gathering, reduce total authorized delegate body to ~ 2000.

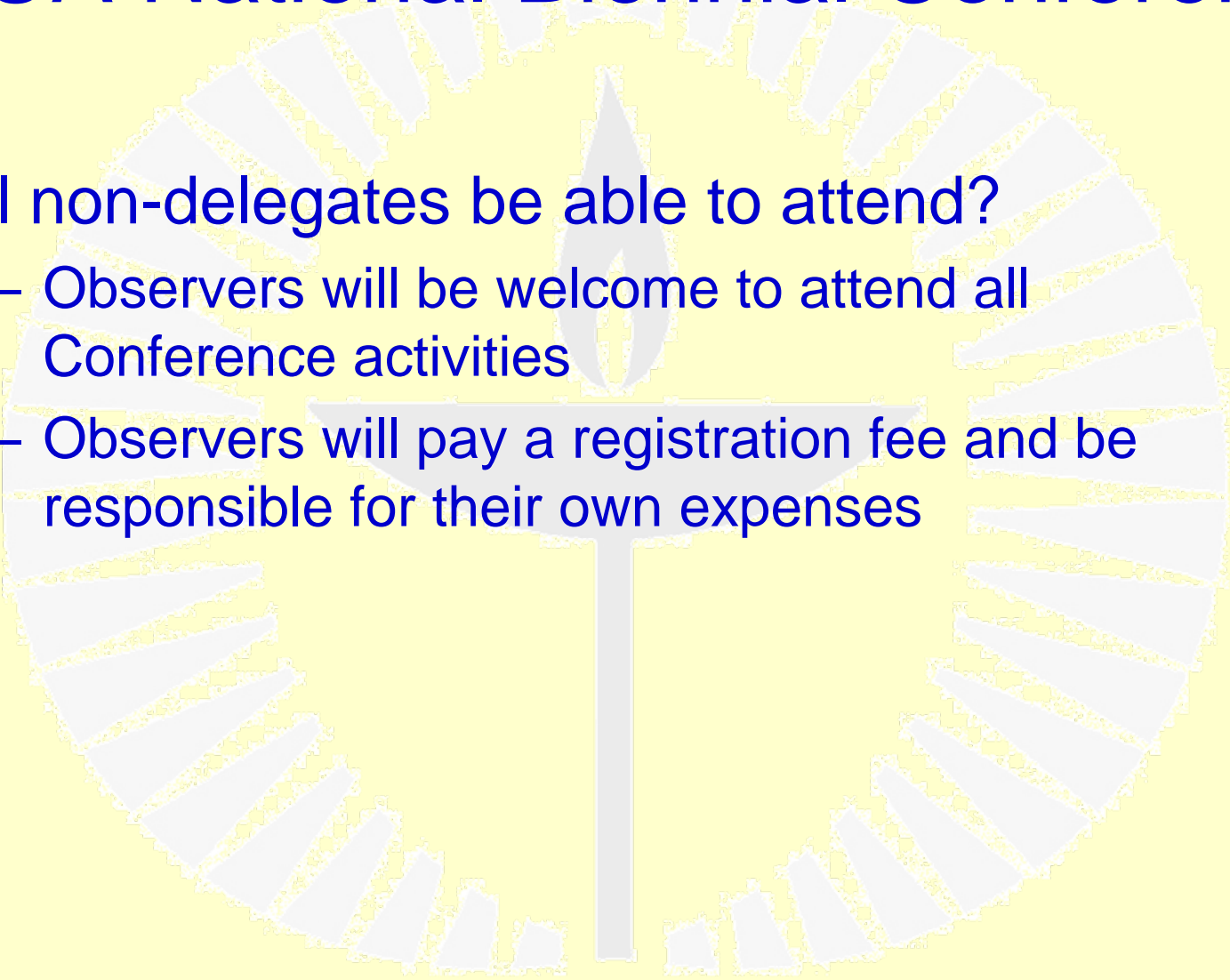
One possibility using 2009 certification data:

<u>Congregation size</u>	<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 - 250	1	810
251 - 550	2	278
551 - 1000	3	132
1000 +	4	28
Settled Ministers – 1 per congregation		600
At-large delegates – 20 selected per region		<u>100</u>
Total delegates		1948

UUA National Biennial Conference

Will non-delegates be able to attend?

- Observers will be welcome to attend all Conference activities
- Observers will pay a registration fee and be responsible for their own expenses



Sample Grid

	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
A.M. S e s s i o n	Program Assembly	Program Assembly	Worship Team based Governance Training	Worship Admin Reports - Business session	Public Worship
	Program Assembly	Program Assembly	Conversations with Trustees on Issues	Resolutions / Elections	
P.M. S e s s i o n				Banquet	
E v e n i n g	Progam Assembly Activities	Dinner and opening celebration	Keynote (Ware)	SLT	

What about the Alternate Years?

National Biennial Conference would be in odd years. Anticipate beginning no sooner than 2013.

What would happen in even years?

Some possibilities:

- A. National Program or “Big Tent” assembly – similar to current General assembly
- B. Thematically aligned Regional Gatherings
- C. A Unitarian Universalist “Week of Service”
- D. A year off

Task Force Members:

- Denise Davidoff, chair
- Janiece Sneegas, staff
- Jackie Shanti, UUA Board
- Gini Courter, UUA Moderator
- Mark G. Gibbons
- Rev. Daniel O'Connell
- Barbara Prairie
- Esther Rosado
- Joe Sullivan

Fifth Principle Task Force

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