

**General Assembly 2017** is almost here! We are so excited that you will be joining us for this incredible experience. Whether you attend every **GA Youth Caucus** event or come to orientation and then spend the rest of the week exploring the wide range of events, worships and workshops available throughout General Assembly, and whether this is your first or fifteenth General Assembly – we welcome you!

You'll find all of your Youth Caucus User Guide materials right here on Blue Boat in a special section. Each post covers a different topic that you'll want to take a look at before your arrival in [New Orleans](#).

Get the **GA Mobile App** to see program listings and maps, and to create your personal GA schedule and get connected with other attendees.

### **First, a message from your Youth Caucus Deans:**

General Assembly Youth Caucus Attendees -

We find ourselves in some difficult times, both in the greater political world, and within our own UUA. Though the **theme of our upcoming General Assembly is Resist and Rejoice**, now, more than ever, it may feel like only resistance is possible, like rejoice is out of reach. It might feel like we're further than ever from the diverse, multicultural, inclusive Beloved Community we seek. As your deans of the Youth Caucus, we're feeling all of these things, too.

However, youth represent one of the most important voices in our Association. The youth are the voices of change, always of the forefront of justice, equity, and revolution. As your deans, we want your Youth Caucus experience to exist without limits; change is in our hands, and sometimes all that's needed is a little push and the right people.

Our Youth Caucus programming this year will be finely in-tune with the theme of General Assembly. We will Rejoice together in our orientation, our worships, our game nights, and other fun activities, but we will also be putting our noses to the grindstone with important conversations about Resistance.

The Youth Caucus team has worked hard to ensure that everyone has a great time, so we want you all to use every moment to your advantage. We want every YC participant to discover something new, whether it is about yourself, your community, or our host city, NOLA.

With all that said, we think we speak on behalf of the entire Youth Caucus staff when we say that we're beyond excited to welcome you to Youth Caucus, General Assembly, and New Orleans. We hope that this year's Youth Caucus will be extremely impactful for you all, and we look forward to seeing you there.

In faith,

Eric Broner and Jaidyn Bryant  
2017 GA Youth Caucus Deans



**Second, here's some essential information about requirements and location.**

Youth Caucus will meet in room 217-219 of the [Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans](#), which is on the second level. All [Youth Caucus programming](#) occurs in this room.

**Orientation is required for youth and sponsors.** Our Youth and Sponsor Orientation is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 21st and runs until 5:15 pm in the Youth Caucus room. If you arrive at General Assembly *after* this orientation, there will be daily make-up orientation opportunities at 8:30 am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Youth and sponsors are required to attend the **first** orientation that occurs after their arrival. This is the only required Youth Caucus event.

Youth are welcome to attend whatever programming they wish throughout the entirety of General Assembly. See the programming section for schedules and highlights (below).

**Finally, here's what you'll find on our pages:**

- [Meet the GA Youth Caucus Staff](#): This team of 10 youth and 5 adults have been working hard to bring you awesome programming and to serve you at General Assembly. Get to know them better here.
- [Sponsor Welcome and Responsibilities](#): Written to sponsors, it is valuable information for youth and parents as well, about sponsor responsibilities, youth-sponsor relationships, and some agreements that youth and sponsors will want to come to before arriving at General Assembly.
- [Programming Highlights](#): Learn what the Youth Caucus is offering this year, see some highlights from our suggested GA workshop list, and download a blank schedule to plan your GA.
- [Lead at GA](#): Looking to lead? There are opportunities to get involved in leadership and make an impact on our association through the business of General Assembly.
- [Get Connected](#): Join our social media networks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as learn about the opportunities to connect in person throughout General Assembly.
- [Support at GA](#): Learn more about what our Chaplain team offers.
- [Witness](#): This year's witness event is unlike anything we've ever done. Learn more about what to expect.
- [Check Lists](#): What to do before arriving and what to pack! Don't forget these essentials.

If you have any questions at all about your attendance at General Assembly, contact us at [youth@uua.org](mailto:youth@uua.org).



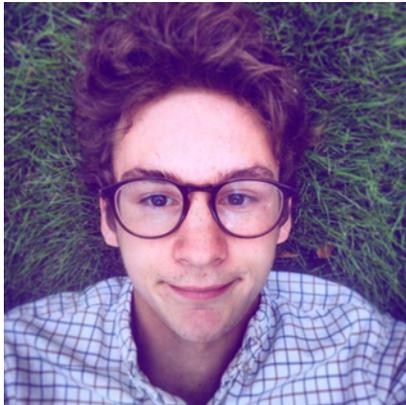
## Meet Them All! 2017 Youth Caucus Staff

General Assembly 2017 of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be a gathering like no other.

Responsive to the hurt and upheaval enhanced by the Trump administration and more responsive still to the yearning for joy, creativity and togetherness, GA17: Resist and Rejoice will be a transformative spiritual community event. The 2017 Youth Caucus staff are dedicated to creating an experience that galvanizes the youth of our movement by deepening our collective Unitarian Universalist spirituality and helping youth make an impact on our association through General Assembly.

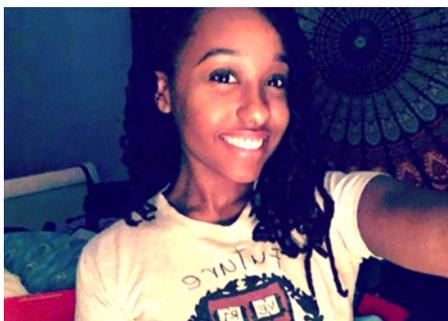
They will be working alongside YA@GA staff and, new this year, the Thrive@GA Youth and Young Adult Coordinators. Memorize these faces!

### Eric Broner, Sr. Dean



Eric Broner lives in Atlanta, GA and is a high school senior. He's a member of his school's cross country, swimming, track, and Quizbowl teams, and he is the senior co-facilitator of his youth group at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. In his free time, Eric likes to fantasize about all the things he could do if he had any. Eric is an avid reader, a frequent viewer of documentaries, and a huge fan of the Atlanta Hawks, Falcons, Dream, and United FC. He's very excited about Youth Caucus this year in New Orleans, LA and looks forward to meeting UU youth from across the country as they join together to improve our faith and national communities.

### Jaidyn Bryant, Jr. Dean



Jaidyn is a sophomore from Baton Rouge, LA. She attends the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, where she has served on the worship guild for almost 2 years. She is also a Thrive alum who can talk for hours about social issues ranging from police brutality to climate change. She loves sports, including track, tennis, and volleyball. She can be found in the weight room, or at one of several clubs after school. This year, she is serving as the Junior Dean and can't wait for GA this year in New Orleans!

## Andreas Rivera-Young, Connections Coordinator



Andreas is a freshman who attends the [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro, Virginia](#) where he serves as a childcare provider and is active within his youth group.

Originally from **California**, he is a second generation Unitarian Universalist. He is an alum from both [Thrive](#) (2016) and [Goldmine](#) (2016). Andreas is passionate about activism, especially related to racial justice. In addition to being a total soccer nerd (go [Arsenal](#)) and running track, a generous amount of his time is devoted to consuming just about anything that is near him. He not only enjoys creating music through playing the cello, but he can also be found listening to his favorite guilty pleasure artists. He looks forward to meeting youth from all across the country for this amazing GA!

## Elesa Turner, Connections Coordinator



Elesa is a senior from [First Unitarian Church of Providence in Rhode Island](#). She enjoys crafting, debating about [Gilmore Girls](#), and watching The Bachelor on Monday nights at 8pm EST on ABC. She can be found at any time adding to her [Pinterest](#) boards or asking people if she can pet their dogs. She is so excited to be a connections coordinator at GA in New Orleans - even more excited than when her beloved [Patriots](#) won the [Super Bowl!](#)

## Nyana Harper, Peer Chaplain



Nyana Harper is a sophomore attending [Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ohio](#). She is the Chair Elect of Heartland Area Youth Council. She enjoys nature hikes, helping to plan youth events, and doodling. She is super excited to see all the awesome youth and adults at GA for her second year attending and first year as a youth chaplain.

## Kiernan Dean-Hall, Peer Chaplain



Kiernan Dean-Hall is a junior at [People's Church in Kalamazoo](#), Michigan. He is an active member of his youth group and has had an integral role in the planning and execution of cluster cons hosted by his church. While not in church, Kiernan likes to swim, eat, and sleep, as well as work to become a [Pokémon](#) master and working on his YouTube Channel.

## Hannah Rigdon, Sr. Business Manager



Hannah is a senior from the [Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ](#). She enjoys doing arts and crafts, watching [Portlandia](#), and doodling on her homework. You can find her playing the cello in an orchestra for retired people or getting lost in the woods with her dog. She is a hostess at a Chinese restaurant, and is also a renowned author of terrible poetry. Hannah cannot wait to meet you all in New Orleans and looks forward to seeing your bright faces in [General Session](#).

## Annalee Durland-Jones, Jr. Business Manager



Annalee is a junior who attends the [Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist](#) in [Charlottesville, Virginia](#). As an active part of her church community, she helps to lead youth group, worships, and is the first youth Board of Trustees member at her church. When she is not at church, she enjoys exploring the world around her through photography and cooking new foods. Annalee is a [Goldmine](#) alum (2016). She is passionate about getting youth interested in social justice issues and what is happening in the world around them.

## Colleen Lee, Sr. Worship Coordinator



Colleen Lee is senior at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in St. Louis, Missouri. She spends time working with Planned Parenthood, graphic designing for her school's yearbook and art journaling. She also enjoys listening to podcasts and taking BuzzFeed quizzes, all while drinking hot tea and petting her cat, Midnight. She is also a life long UU who can't wait to worship with all of you in NOLA! See yah there!

## Elliot Crary, Jr. Worship Coordinator



Elliot is a junior who attends the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, Arizona. He's a huge nerd and enjoys rock climbing, music, fitness, painting, and games of all kinds. He is a Summer Seminary 2016 alumnus and loves working with UUs to make awesome youth events. He can't wait to meet all of you in New Orleans!

## Shari Halliday-Quan, Adult Chaplain



Shari is a second-year seminarian at Union Theological Seminary and the Youth Ministry Coordinator at First Unitarian in Brooklyn. She and her wife Elisabeth share their home with a 17-pound cat named Hildegard von Harlem, more houseplants than is reasonable, a lovely roommate, and a regular slate of visitors and dinner guests. Her pastimes include cooking, podcasts, and travel, while her past-times include serving in the Peace Corps, selling artisanal cheese and bread, and a very brief stint in showbiz. Shari is one of the adult chaplains for Youth Caucus this year.



## Jordan Licari, Adult Chaplain



Jordan Licari is a second year seminary student at [Starr King School for the Ministry](#), and this will be her first year at GA. She lives in [Denver, CO](#) and is a Youth Advisor at [First Unitarian Society of Denver](#). While not doing school or ministry work, she enjoys being part of the thriving activist community that often meets at her house. Her favorite things are poetry, yoga, cats, and smashing the [heteronormative](#) patriarchy.

## Sam Wilson, Advisor/Sponsor Coordinator



Sam is in his third year as the Director of Youth Ministries at [Winchester Unitarian Society](#), having previously advised youth at [Main Line Unitarian Church in PA](#) and others through the former [Joseph Priestly District](#) Youth Steering Committee. He also works as a "Guru" for an SAT company and has otherwise taught art, English as a Second Language, GEDs, singing, and theatre. He is a Program Leader for the [UU College of Social Justice](#), through which he has led several [Activate Youth Justice](#) training sessions. He particularly loves to: create art for social change, dance like no one's watching, embrace silliness, empower young people, practice anti-racism, sing karaoke, and uplift Unitarian Universalism as a beacon of hope for our world.

## Pam Lepley, Advisor/Sponsor Coordinator



Pam has served as the DRE at the [UU Fellowship of Winston Salem](#) for fifteen years. Her previous professional experience includes serving as a foster care social worker for the Department of Social Services and an advocate for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. She lives in a chaotically peaceful home with her two teenage daughters, husband, four cats, a dog, and regular drop-in visitors occupying the spare room.



## Kathy Smith, Advisor/Sponsor Coordinator



Kathy Smith serves the Community Unitarian Universalist [Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano, Texas](#). She was on Youth Caucus staff at [General Assembly 2012](#) in [Phoenix, AZ](#) and loves every (exhausting, amazing, incredible) minute of General Assembly. As DRE, she is passionate about faith formation that works, social justice that reflects our faith, and building community that sustains both. In her free time, she chases Poke-dudes, performs in community theatre musicals, reads voraciously, and enjoys board games with anyone who can be persuaded to play.



# Hello, Adult Sponsors of Youth!

## Welcome to General Assembly 2017 – Resist and Rejoice!

We are Sam Wilson, Kathy Smith, and Pam Lepley –  
Adult Advisors to the Youth Caucus Staff and your  
Sponsor Coordinators!

Large spiritual communities like Youth Caucus can be powerful, life-changing, and deeply meaningful. These opportunities cannot happen, however, without the help of Sponsors. **WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE! WELCOME! WE OFFER YOU OUR THANKS AND SUPPORT.**

### Sponsor Role

*You, the Sponsor*, are responsible for the safety, health, and well-being of the youth you are sponsoring at all times throughout GA. To help prepare, review our [Youth Caucus Frequently Asked Questions](#).

You are on the front line and we are your support team. Join the [Youth Caucus 2017 Facebook Group](#) and RSVP to the [General Assembly 2017 Event](#) where you can ask questions and connect with other sponsors.

### Sponsor Coordinators Role

- We are your primary contacts at Youth Caucus and we support you in your role as Sponsor.
- We can be reached at **(857) 263-3462** at any time during GA.
- At least one of us will be at every Youth Caucus-sponsored activity.
- Contact us if you need us – we'll contact you if we need you.
- Along with the Youth Caucus chaplains and UUA staff, we will support your youth if something happens to you.

As *Sponsor Coordinators*, we will: be available through the [Youth Caucus 2017 Facebook Group](#) in advance of GA; provide an Orientation to Youth Caucus on Wednesday; support you in upholding the Youth Caucus Covenant created at Orientation and the [Youth Caucus Participant Covenant](#) signed prior to GA; welcome you and other adults into the Youth Caucus space and programming; offer reassurance to you in your role as Sponsor; field concerns about youth-related programming; create opportunities for youth and sponsors to connect during GA; and to assist in re-connecting if you have lost contact with one another. In the event of a youth emergency, we will work with you, the UUA staff, and the appropriate emergency teams to manage the situation.



### **Traveling with Youth**

It is the policy of the UUA that youth and their sponsors must stay in the same lodging during General Assembly. We also strongly encourage sponsors to follow their individual congregations' Safe Congregations Policy when making travel and housing arrangements. Sponsors or families seeking further guidance can find helpful information in this [Youth in Hotels document from the UUA's Central East Regional Congregational Life Staff](#).

### **Prepare for GA**

In order to have the best GA experience possible, you and your youth should get to know each other and develop a plan. Before you come to New Orleans, take some time to talk things through so that your expectations of each other are clear. Review the [GA schedule and Program Book](#) together. We recommend that youth, sponsors, and parents/guardians create and sign their own written "Agreement" together, which includes expectations for both youth and sponsor roles, responsibilities, and limits. Please refer to our sample agreement on the next page for some items to discuss in advance, such as curfew, expectations for program attendance, and how often you will check in with one another throughout the day.

### **The First Day of GA**

- **Attend the mandatory Youth Caucus and Sponsor Orientation on Wednesday from 4:00-5:15!**  
This is where you will meet us as well as all of the other Youth Caucus leaders. This is the place to get any last-minute questions answered. Make-up Youth Caucus and Sponsor Orientations are scheduled for 8:30am on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for youth and sponsors arriving after Wednesday. Please attend the first orientation available to you after your arrival, as this is where you will receive vital information for having a fun and safe General Assembly experience.
- Look around! Help your youth get oriented to the [Convention Center](#) and where it is in relation to your hotel. Review the ground rules and safety information. Stock up on snacks for you and your youth. Take a deep breath! This is going to be an AWESOME WEEK!!!

### **Safety, Curfew, and the Unique Environment and Opportunities of New Orleans**

Familiarize yourself with the [laws concerning minors](#) and the [age of consent](#) in Louisiana.

**Please note that the curfew for youth under 17 years old is very early! In the French Quarter youth must be accompanied by adults after 8pm nightly, everywhere else youth**

**must be accompanied by adults after 9pm on school nights, 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights.**

Programming at General Assembly tends to run until 11pm every night. To meet curfew laws, an adult must accompany youth back to their hotel/lodging after General Assembly programming each night. We highly recommend that adult be the youth's sponsor, or an adult that the youth and sponsor trust. New Orleans police strictly enforce the curfew – they will ask for ID and then arrest. Please note that a disproportionately high number of arrests for curfew violation are youth of color. Even if your youth are 17 or 18 years old (and thus the curfew law does not apply to them), a police officer might not be able to judge their age properly and might stop them anyhow.

### **New Orleans and the French Quarter**

A cultural hub for the south, New Orleans attracts 9 million+ visitors per year. With its distinctive architecture, variety of shopping opportunities, and iconic restaurants, many of those visitors are drawn to the French Quarter.

Please note that the French Quarter is experienced differently after dark. One of the attractions to the Quarter is the street party atmosphere and it is common for people to be loud and inebriated. Please know the [boundaries of the French Quarter](#) and make sure that your youth knows them as well.

Grabbing beignets at [Café du Monde](#) at noon then exploring some shops in the Quarter would be a fun activity with your youth. Trying to stroll down Bourbon Street with your youth (regardless of age) after dark – not so much. While in New Orleans, as in any large and busy tourist town, be aware that pickpocketing and petty crime are real. Take care with your possessions, including credit cards and cash. Pay attention to how you carry your wallet, purse, and backpack.



### **New Orleans Curfew for Youth under 17 years old**

French Quarter: 8pm nightly

New Orleans, other than area known as the French Quarter:  
9pm on school nights, 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights



## **New Orleans Like a Local – Attend a Festival!**

### **June 24-25 – Louisiana Cajun-Zydeco Festival**

Two unique styles of music, both birthed in Louisiana are celebrated at this annual festival. This free event is held from 11am-7pm both Saturday and Sunday at Louis Armstrong Park, 701 N. Rampart Street. Food vendors, cooking demonstrations, and local craftsmen will all be on hand for the celebration so bring some cash just in case if you want to check it out for lunch or dinner.

**We look forward to Resisting and Rejoicing with you in New Orleans!**

*Sincerely, Sam Wilson, Kathy Smith, and Pam Lepley*

### ***Meet Your Sponsor Coordinators***



Sam is in his 3rd year as the Director of Youth Ministries at Winchester Unitarian Society, having previously advised youth at Main Line Unitarian Church in PA and others through the former JP District Youth Steering Committee. He also works as a "Guru" for an SAT Company and has otherwise taught art, English as a Second Language, GEDs, singing, and theatre. He is a Program Leader for the UU College of Social Justice, through which he has led several Activate Youth Justice trainings. He particularly loves to: create art for social change, dance like no one's watching, embrace silliness, empower young people, practice anti-racism, sing karaoke, and uplift Unitarian Universalism as a beacon of hope for our world.



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# Youth at General Assembly



*\*Questions before arriving? Please email [youth@uua.ga.org](mailto:youth@uua.ga.org) with inquiries about Youth Caucus prior to General Assembly.*

## **SAMPLE AGREEMENT - Youth, Sponsor and Parent/Guardian - SAMPLE AGREEMENT**

### **General Assembly (GA) 2017– New Orleans, LA**

*The Following are **\*some\*** examples of important items for Youth, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) And Sponsors to discuss before going to General Assembly.*

We agree that before leaving for GA we will discuss our individual and mutual responsibilities, limits and expectations. Some examples of these may include:

- *What is the youth hoping for from participation in GA? What does the parent/guardian hope for?*
- *What are the parent/guardian/sponsor's/youth's own expectations for youth behavior?*
- *What does the parent/guardian expect from the sponsor? What does the youth expect?*
- *How can the parent/guardian best be contacted? What are everyone's expectations in terms of how often, or under what circumstances, parent(s)/guardian(s) are to be contacted?*
- *How will youth and sponsors arrange meals? How much spending money should the youth bring?*
- *How will any medications be monitored and or administered?*
- *How will sponsors be aware of relevant medical conditions, allergies, or ability to treat youth with over-the-counter medications?*
- *What are your agreements around safety? What is your plan in case of any emergency?*
- *What are your agreements around self care, including sleeping, eating, etc.?*
- *How will you take what you've learned back to your home congregation and/or district/region?*

**The Following are *\*some\** specific examples of agreements that the Youth and their Sponsor may wish to make:**

- **In Terms of Spending Time Together At GA:**

We, the **Youth** and the **Sponsor**, agree to meet at least \_\_\_ times per day while at GA, at a time and place that works for both of us. *Examples of good times/places to do so:*

- *We will attend general session, a workshop or worship together.*
- *We will share a meal.*
- *We will check in at an agreed time/place.*

- **In Terms of Communicating with Each Other During GA:**

We, the **Youth** and the **Sponsor**, agree that before leaving for GA we will create a system for communication with each other. *Examples of good systems of communication include the following:*

- *We will carry each other's cell phone number and hotel room number at all times.*
- *The convention center may have limited cell phone reception. We will have a back-up plan in case we can't reach each other by phone.*
- *We will designate a specific Meet Up Spot where we will generally meet up by default, rally as a group, go back to if we lose each other, etc.*
- *We will share our expected schedules so we can find each other in an emergency.*

• **In Terms of Individual Responsibilities at GA:**

- We, the **Youth** and the **Sponsor**, agree to attend the mandatory Wednesday afternoon Orientation or the first available Orientation for arrival after Wednesday's meeting..
- **Sponsor:** I understand the Adult Sponsor Code of Ethics and I pledge to follow it. I also understand and agree to the expectation that adult sponsors will not drink alcohol or take inebriating or illegal drugs while at GA.
- **Youth:** I agree to attend at least \_\_\_ events (workshops, Youth Caucus-sponsored events, General Sessions, and/or worship services) while at GA.
- **Youth:** I agree to the rules as outlined in the "Participant Policy and Covenant," and will obey all state and local laws, as well as the laws of the hotel or residence where we are staying. I will also abide by the policy on sexuality and community.
- **Youth:** I agree to the curfews set by my sponsor. I understand that while at GA I am the responsibility of my sponsor. Please note the New Orleans city curfew for unaccompanied youth:

Children 16 or younger who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian must be home by 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday in the summer. On Friday and Saturday, they need to be home by 11 p.m. - **unless they are in the French Quarter or a section of Faubourg Marigny that includes Frenchmen Street. Curfew in the French Quarter is 8pm nightly.**  
<http://thelensnola.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/curfew-ordinance.pdf>

**Youth, Sponsor and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** We understand that this agreement is created between us to ensure comfort and safety for youth, sponsors and parents/guardians. We further understand that if the youth violates any GA rules, parents/guardians will be notified and the youth will be sent home at the expense of the parent/guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Signature

***Please Note:***

*This is a **\*sample\*** agreement between youth, sponsors, and parents.*

***Look it over. Modify it. Make it your own.***

***Create your own agreement between yourselves!***

*Agreements between youth, sponsors and parents/guardians should be built on mutual respect and understanding. Everyone benefits when youth, sponsors and parents/guardians all agree in advance about what they expect from each other.*

*You may want to print your own modified version of this document and formally sign it in each other's presence to help you remember the covenant you have made with each other.*



# UUA Youth, Sponsor and Parent/Guardian Sample Agreement

General Assembly (GA) 2017– New Orleans, LA

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Youth Signature

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Parent Signature

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Sponsor Signature

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*You may want to print your own modified version of this document and formally sign it in each other's presence to help you remember the covenant you have made with each other.*



**General Assembly** is jam packed with tons of amazing programming. There's no way you could do it all, so be strategic in how you plan your schedule. [Use this blank grid](#) to fill in your schedule. Note the mandatory Youth Caucus Orientation from 4:00-5:15pm on Wednesday. If you are won't arrive in time to attend that orientation, make-up orientations will be held at 8:30am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Check out these highlights in the [GA Youth Caucus](#) room and throughout GA. If you have any questions about programming, don't hesitate to send an email to [youthcaucus@uua.org](mailto:youthcaucus@uua.org) for more information.

## If you want to check out the entire schedule:

[Download the daily programming PDF](#) and [check out the Business Agenda](#) to see the full range of what's offered at General Assembly, including workshop descriptions. Note: all Youth Caucus workshop descriptions are included in these resources.

[Download the GA App](#) for a digital copy of the Program Book content, as well as a number of other tools.

## Youth Caucus Highlights

Remember, Youth-Sponsor Orientation Wednesday at 4:00pm is mandatory. Everything else is up to you.

**Youth Caucus and Sponsor Orientation** - Wednesday 4:00pm. Learn about what to expect at GA, meet the Youth Caucus staff, and learn about the exciting opportunities available this week. Start to build relationships with other youth and sponsors and have some fun!

**Youth Delegate Orientation** - Wednesday 5:15pm. For youth representing their congregation as delegates.

**Youth Caucus Worship** - Wednesday 9:30pm. All are welcome to be present for music and inspiration as we lift our hearts and begin our week at GA! Please note that New Orleans' curfew is 9pm on school nights so youth under 17 must leave the convention center with an adult. Want to be involved in leading this worship? [Apply to be a storyteller!](#)

**Creating Connections: Youth Led Games** - Thursday 1:30pm. Begin the week with fun games that will strengthen community, teach leadership, and make you laugh!

**Communities of Resistance** - Thursday 3:15pm. This panel discussion followed by small group conversations will gather local organizers and community members for storytelling and conversation.

**Candid with the Candidates: Discussion and Questions with the UUA Presidential Candidates** - Thursday 5:00pm. Get to know the [UUA presidential candidates](#) through interactive discussion and Q&A.

**Hands and Hearts Raised: [YA@GA](#) and Youth Caucus Worship** - Thursday 9:30pm. Join your voices and hands in celebration of our spiritual ancestors who teach us how to resist and rejoice. Please note that New Orleans' curfew is 9pm on school nights so youth under 17 must leave the convention center with an adult.

**Rock the Boat: A Youth Impact Strategy Session** - Friday 1:30pm. Harness the power of Unitarian Universalism and strategize with your peers on how to best help GA engage in social witness on issues that matter to you.

**Activate Joyful Witness: A Workshop on Art & Activism** - Friday 3:15pm. With guest artists and activists, we'll prepare to bring spirited presence to Public Witness.



**Youth in Community Organizing** - Saturday 1:30pm. Using real life examples as case studies, breakout groups will be challenged with brainstorming community organizing strategies.

**Activate Sustained Resistance: Taking It Home** - Saturday 3:15pm. Youth leaders will share ways to stay sustained while we create action plans to bring back to our communities.

**Game Night** - Saturday 9:45pm. Join the youth caucus for some team games, as well as plenty of board games, card games and crafts. Please note that New Orleans' curfew is 11pm on Friday and Saturday so youth under 17 must leave the convention center with an adult.

**Youth Caucus Closing Circle: Reflect and Renew** - Sunday 10:45am. Begin the last day of General Assembly reflecting on the connections made and the things learned during the week.

## Luminary Leaders and Alumni

If you are part of the Luminary Leaders program, you are invited to a reception at Gordon Biersch by the Hilton Riverside at 12:30pm-1:15pm on Thursday. [RSVP for details](#).

## Highlights for Youth and Young Adults of Color

**Young Adults of Color Lunch** - Friday 12:15pm

Location TBD

**Youth of color lunch** - Saturday 12:15pm

Hilton Riverside — Cambridge

**Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries workshop track - Room 223**

Exploring Intersectional Identity with Personal Storytelling - Thursday 1:30pm

Discovering Your Personal Theology of Resistance - Thursday 4:30pm

Post Traumatic Ministry - Friday 1:30pm

Children of Color and Their Needs in Congregations - Friday 3:15pm

Introduction to the Global Majority Collective - Saturday 1:30pm

**DRUUMM Worship: Intersectional Allyship within Unitarian Universalism** - Saturday 3:15pm

Room 206-207

Finally, we end with a worship service and return to our UU identities while asking ourselves, what would UUism centered on POCs look like? This leaves us with some visioning and imagining of a future in which we lead from the margins and become the face of our UU movement.

**Grow Racial Justice Track** Thursday, Friday and Saturday 3:15-4:30pm

YA@GA space - 214

Guided by songs and stories, join in this distilled version of the Grow Racial Justice summer program! In this first session, we'll explore our identities as people of color, the power of our ancestors, the internalized oppression we've learned, and strengthen our spiritual muscles. In this second session, we'll share about our diversity as people of color, what we need from each other as POC and how to have each others backs. In this final session, we'll talk about this movement moment, the skills of community organizing and facilitation that we need for this urgent now.



### **BLUU Anti-Blackness Workshop** - Friday 3:15pm

Room R06

Anti-blackness is a global phenomenon that affects people in every cultural and ethnic group. Within larger systems of structural oppression, it translates to higher rates of social ills, including poverty, unemployment, poor health outcomes, and substandard housing. We will also discuss the impact of anti-blackness in our congregations and beyond.

## **Highlights for LGBTQ+ Youth**

### **LGBTQ+ Youth Game Night** - Thursday 10:00pm

Hilton Riverside Chequers Room

Join us for snacks, beverages and a whole lot of fun! Please note that New Orleans' curfew is 9pm on school nights so youth under 17 must leave the convention center and the Hilton Riverside with an adult. Please travel in groups.

## **Highlights for Bridging Youth**

### **Finding UU Community While On The Move: A Young Adult Story** - Thursday 1:30pm

YA@GA space - 214

As YAs, our lives change at the drop of a dime. We are constantly on the move: entering new cities, graduating, switching jobs, and changing housing. New challenges present themselves as we connect our UU principles to our lives. Come learn and share strategies with your peers.

### **Bridging Reception: Coffee and Conversation Before the Service** - Sunday 8:00am

YA@GA space - 214

Come celebrate those who have bridged in the Synergy worship service with what we UUs do best: coffee! This will be a chance for bridgers and YA@GA to converse and connect with each other.

### **Synergy Bridging Worship - 5:00pm Saturday**

Some notes for Bridgers:

- Sign up at General Assembly in the Youth Caucus room on the sheet on the wall.
- We need volunteers to come to rehearsal. Rehearsal is at 4:45 pm in the General Session Hall on Friday.
- Arrive no later than 4:45 pm on Friday outside of the General Session Hall. We also encourage your youth groups and family to sit up-front.
- You will be on stage during the service and asked to speak your name and congregation into a microphone. Some choose to dress up for this worship but you are not required to do so.

## **Large GA Events to Get Excited For**

Youth Caucus has special reserved seating at all events held in the General Session Hall. Find out the location at Youth-Sponsor Orientation (Wednesday 4:00pm) or look for the giant inflatable palm tree!

### **Welcoming Celebration** - 7:30pm Wednesday

Kick General Assembly off right with a hearty multigenerational celebration with great music. Each congregation attending brings a banner and members march in a banner parade. Ask your congregational leaders if you can carry your congregation's banner!



**Postcards to Incarcerated Youth and Adults** - 10:00am-12:00pm Thursday

GA Exhibit Hall

Send a warm UU General Assembly 2017 greeting to a youth or adult incarcerated in Louisiana. Participants will send postcards and personal messages in other formats to incarcerated children and incarcerated members of [Church of the Larger Fellowship \(CLF\)](#). The Sunday Collection beneficiary [Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children \(FFLIC\)](#) is partnering with CLF in this communications project.

**Days for Girls Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene Kits fight Poverty and Isolation** - 10am Saturday

GA Exhibit Hall

An assembly line of volunteers will package kits to distribute to girls in New Orleans and around the world. [Pre-registration for the assembly line is required.](#)

**General Session** - 8:45am-12:15pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 12:30-3:30pm Sunday

Join other youth in our special seating to learn about and influence the business of our association. For [youth who are delegates](#), General Sessions are not to be missed as this is where all the voting happens.

**Service of the Living Tradition** - 8:00-9:30pm Thursday

Sort of like a bridging ceremony for religious professionals, this is where we honor the continuing development of our ministers and religious educators. We like to show our support at this event in the hopes that it will encourage adults to attend our Synergy Bridging Worship.

Presidential Candidates Forum: If you haven't heard, we're electing a new president this year! This will likely be the three candidates answering pre-selected questions. [Learn about each candidate and how to vote here.](#)

**Synergy Bridging Worship** - 5:00pm Saturday

[The annual General Assembly Bridging Service](#), open to all, and especially honoring youth transitioning into young adulthood. This is a transformative multigenerational worship. Come be inspired and illuminated at a celebration of treasured worship elements, rites of passage and brilliant contemporary musical performances.

**Public Witness** - 5:00pm Friday Learn more in the [Witness section](#).

UU's from around the country will celebrate love's power to resist hate and fear and commit to helping make our communities a "sanctuary" - safe spaces for people under threat - at GA and beyond. The event will begin with a second line with the [Young & Talented Brass Band](#).

**Ware Lecturer Bryan Stevenson** - 8:30pm Saturday

Bryan Stevenson, author of [Just Mercy](#) is the founder and Executive Director of the [Equal Justice Initiative](#) in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned.

For workshops not hosted by Youth Caucus check the [General Assembly Programs and Schedule](#) and for other awesome highlights and workshops check [Program Highlights on UUA.org/ga](#)



# Getting Involved at General Assembly

## Hey everyone, Hannah, and Annalee here...

...your Youth Caucus business managers, and we're so excited to help you make an impact at this year's General Assembly. You are not only the leaders of tomorrow but the [leaders of today](#). This may sound a little daunting, but don't worry, we're here to support and guide youth and delegates who are youth through all the business of General Assembly!

Want to be involved in the Wednesday Welcoming Worship? Have a story of a time you encountered resistance in a social justice context, resisted oppression or oppressive systems, or rejoiced in a social justice context? [Apply to be a storyteller for worship!](#)

## The Hardest Part of Doing Anything is Starting

The first thing you can do to get involved at GA simply [show up to some workshops!](#) The Business team will host two sessions ([during workshop slots #3 and #4](#)) along with a delegate orientation right after your mandatory youth caucus orientation. The delegate orientation (Wednesday, 5:15 in room 217-219) serves as a great first step to becoming comfortable with the GA business. This will be a time to ask questions and familiarize yourself with our faces because we are here to support you however we can throughout the upcoming week.

In our first Involved Youth Strategy session (Thursday, 5:00-6:15), Candid with the Candidates, you will have the opportunity to informally meet the [UUA presidential candidates](#) that we will be [voting on](#).

This is a very special opportunity for Youth Caucus members, as it gives us a chance to have all of the current candidates' undivided attention and gives you a clearer idea of which candidate you would like to support. Check out this [Comparison of the Presidential Candidates](#) we made, and bring your questions for the candidates to this session!

During the second session (Friday, 1:30-2:45 pm), Rock the Boat, we will discuss how we want to make an impact on our association and make our voices heard. We'll help you achieve what you want to achieve. Strategize with peers and supporters to influence the decisions made about our association.

## Make an Impact

Another way to get involved and make an impact on our association is through the General Sessions. During these sessions, which happen from 8:45am to 12:15pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 12:30-3:30pm on Sunday, the [business of GA](#) is brought forth, debated, and voted on. Attending General Sessions can help you better understand business and gives delegates who are youth the option of debating, making statements, and voting. This is where all the action happens during GA and it's incredible to be a part of moments that change our UUA. Also, you have the opportunity to earn a ribbon for your name-badge with us, by playing the renowned GenSesh BINGO. If BINGO isn't enough, there's a bonus of getting to sit with us and ask us every question that exists, as we will be attending every General Session!

## Be a Delegate

[Being a delegate](#) really is the key to having an amazing General Assembly. There are not a lot of communities in which adults affirm youth under the age of 18 as capable, informed and equal participants of a governing structure, so you should take advantage of it! General Sessions also serve as a critical way in which we, as UUs, practice [our Fifth Principle](#)- the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. We have a unique opportunity to take the UU values we all share and contemplate the best ways to put them into practice as an association. We, as youth, bring the unexpected ideas, the unanswered questions, and the unexplored routes. When we make the choice to speak up, stand with, or second an action, we are amplifying the voices of all the unrepresented youth and taking part in something much bigger than Youth Caucus, because it affects everyone at GA. This is exactly why we need youth like you to become involved and lead during General Assembly, so UUs everywhere can have a new, interesting perspective: yours.



## ***How can I connect with others while at GA? What is the Youth Caucus Social Media presence?***

### **In Person**

Attending workshops with other youth is a great way to connect with other youth. A few youth caucus members will be gathering groups to go to non-YC workshops as well. Beyond that, [there are several ways to connect around shared interests, shared geography, or shared identity](#). Ask people to lunch to talk about your shared interests! [NOLA has plenty of wonderful restaurants](#). Reminders of events will be posted in the [Youth Caucus](#) Room.

### **Creating Connections Workshop**

Don't miss this opportunity to broaden your connection with other youth! Come to our workshop dedicated to games focused on community and having fun so you can meet other GA youth participants. Create a time you will remember and game ideas you can take back to your youth group! (1:30-2:24pm Thursday in the Youth Caucus room 217-219.)

### **Name Tag Colors**

Collect different colors for your name tag that correspond with youth events throughout General Assembly! See how many you can collect over the course of GA. If you see someone with a color you haven't collected, ask them how it went!

### **Small Groups**

Want to connect more deeply with a small group of youth? Be sure to sign up for Small Groups during orientation. Small groups will meet several times during GA - same people, same group - and get to know each other while sharing more about your experiences and ideas about Social Justice, Unitarian Universalism, and Life at GA in New Orleans.

### **Friend Ship Table**

Set up in the Youth Caucus room will be a table designated for people to sit down if they are hoping to meet new people or need someone to hang out with. There will be craft supplies and some games at this table for use between workshops. Have fun meeting new people in a friendly setting.

### **CommUUnity Cards**

Youth Caucus Staff will be distributing these interactive cards that will allow for youth to kickstart a fun, intergenerational GA experience. Cards will instruct players to take pictures with new people, find others wearing specific items, sing, dance, laugh, and most of all, pass the enjoyment along to others. Not just limited to Youth Caucus, bring these to the larger GA community.

### **Online**

Join, follow, like, and use our hashtags! On all platforms, the General Assembly hashtag is [#UUAGA](#) and the Youth Caucus hashtag is [#YouthCaucus](#). Use them both! Our GA Youth Media Volunteers will be using a variety of platforms to share their experiences at General Assembly.

Gayouthcaucus and UUAYaYA on [Snapchat](#): Follow to see a live "story" of all the happenings at Youth Caucus!

[@GA\\_Youth\\_Caucus](#) on [Instagram](#): Platform for sharing photos throughout GA and Youth Caucus. Tag us and we'll repost your best shots!

[Youth Caucus 2017 on Facebook](#): A private group for those interested in the GA Youth Caucus. Share links, have discussions and keep in touch after GA is over.



[@YouthCaucusGA](#) on [Twitter](#): Follow for links, photos, updates and live tweets from sessions. Turn on tweet notifications to be notified of when youth caucus events are happening!

The **General Assembly Program App** has connection features, including tracking of the #uuaga twitter hashtag and a photo feed, in addition to the scheduling, program info and the opportunity to earn points and badges. Feel free to share your CommUUnity Card pictures (the details of this fun game will be explained during Orientation on Wednesday from 4:00-5:00pm in the Youth Caucus room 217-219) on the app with the corresponding hashtag! You can follow your friends and see what programs they are going to.

## Follow these accounts to keep up on what's happening at GA, as well

**Twitter:**

[@UUWorld](#)  
[@UUA](#)  
[@UUCSJ](#)  
[@YOurUUA](#)  
[@uuaga](#)

**Facebook:**

[General Assembly Facebook Event](#)  
[UU World Facebook](#)



## HI EVERYBODY!

We are your [Youth Caucus](#) peer chaplains, Kiernan and Nyana, and we can't wait to meet you all in New Orleans in June! We, along with the rest of the Youth Caucus staff, are looking forward to working with all of you to provide logistical and spiritual support for you to grow and become more involved in [Unitarian Universalism](#) throughout the course of [General Assembly \(GA\)](#). Whether you've been to GA before or not, it can, and most likely will, at times be both exciting and overwhelming. That's perfectly normal and we're here to support you throughout this incredibly immersive experience!

Here are some tips and resources that you can utilize at GA:

A chaplain is someone for you to talk to. A sort-of spiritually equipped peer mediator. We have training in listening, crisis intervention and non-directive helping. We are here to provide you with an outlet for feelings and a compassionate presence. We won't give you advice to solve a problem, but rather we will listen to you and help you come up with solutions yourself.

There are also amazing adult chaplains for Youth Caucus! They are Shari and Jordan and they're super friendly and would love to talk with you at any time.

You can call us anytime at GA at **(857) 321-8697**. This phone number will be active from June 21st through June 25th.

### Come to a chaplain if. . .

- you're feeling lonely
- you don't know how to handle a situation
- you're really excited about all of the rad things going on at GA
- you're having difficulties with another GA attendee
- you want to talk about a workshop
- you want to talk about something that happened awhile ago but is still upsetting you
- something scary just happened
- something super great just happened!
- you're uncomfortable with something at GA
- you have a conflict that you'd like us to bring up with the rest of the Youth Caucus Staff
- you miss your parent/friend/significant other/pet
- you're worried about somebody
- you just want someone to talk

We will have a Friend Ship table and Rose, Thorn, Bud wall in the Youth Caucus room you can visit anytime the space is open. These resources are a cool place to go if you'd like some company and you can:

- play a game!
- draw a picture!



- write something to put on the Rose, Thorn, Bud Wall or the Meetup Board!
- meet up for a meal!
- find new friends!
- Make a public statement of gratitude!
- Make a statement that goes directly to chaplains, either anonymously or not!
- Build radically inclusive community, together!

## Self care...

- GA is a marathon not a sprint, pace yourself
- don't feel like you have to do everything, but try some new things!
- drink water, eat, take showers, brush your teeth
- check in with your sponsor, let them know if there's anything they can do to help better your GA experience
- let the Youth Caucus Staff know if there's anything they can do to help improve your experience at GA
- take time to sleep! Programming starts early and ends late and we want to be energized throughout!
- talk to someone post-programming or whenever you feel you need to debrief

It's been a difficult, stressful, and in some ways, transformative year for many of us. Youth Caucus chaplains are here specifically for the spiritual and emotional support of youth at GA, but we also want to let you know about a few other resources for support.

- [BLUU Ministry Network](#) for Black UUs
- [DRUUMM](#) for People of Color
- [GA chaplain team](#) for anyone
- The [Right Relationship Team](#) at GA

Even if you can do it ALL yourself, it never hurts to get support when you need (or want) it.



## Public Witness at General Assembly

[Every year at GA there is a public witness](#), which is the time at GA where Unitarian Universalists put into action their values about making the world a more equal and just place. This year the public witness will be from 5:00-7:00pm on Friday. Come to the [UU College of Social Justice's](#) Activate Joyful Witness workshop on art & activism right before the public witness (3:15-4:30pm in the Youth Caucus room 217-219) to make art for the public witness! There will be a [second line](#) (a traditional New Orleans procession) where UUs and local activists will be marching under the theme of [LoveResists](#). After the 0.9 mile walk there will be an array of speakers and music such as UU activists, New Orleans activists, a brass band and other local artists. We highly encourage youth to participate in this social justice event for youth are many times the face and future of many social justice movements.

The second line will be lead by the [Young and Talented Brass Band](#).



Check this page frequently to know what to check off your list of to-dos before you get to [General Assembly 2017](#) in [New Orleans, Louisiana](#) to get the most out of your [Youth Caucus 2017](#) experience.

## What should you do before you arrive?

## What should you bring with you to General Assembly?

### Before your arrival

Did you submit your **Youth Caucus Participant Covenant (all youth participants [PDF](#) or [Online](#))**, **Parental Permission Form and Adult Sponsor Responsibilities Agreement (youth participants under 18 ([PDF](#) or [Online](#)))**?

If your forms are not submitted, you will be unable to pick up your name badge when you arrive at General Assembly until completed forms are provided. Without your name badge, you are unable to attend GA events. Don't miss out! Submit your forms today. Have questions about your forms? Contact [youth@uua.org](mailto:youth@uua.org) or call 617-948-4350.

Have you discussed with your youth / with your sponsor your agreements for what events you'll attend, how you'll keep in touch, or what the boundaries are around where in New Orleans you can go? If not, check out the [Sponsor Welcome information](#) for some suggested agreements you might come to. Do this before you travel!

Have you joined the Youth Caucus [Facebook group](#)? This is a great way to make friends before you arrive. Did you [connect with us on social media](#)? Get the latest updates for all things Youth Caucus.

Have you downloaded the [GA Mobile App](#)? Plan your schedule, see what exhibits will be available and get connected to other attendees.

### Packing

Bring the following with you to General Assembly:

- enough clothes for each day of your trip, plus an extra day's worth. Don't get caught without enough if you get stuck in the rain or drop your smoothie.
- toiletries
- reusable water bottle &/or coffee mug
- day pack to carry all the fun stuff you'll get at GA
- UU t-shirts, jewelry, etc.
- a notebook and pen
- sweater, sweatshirt or wrap for cold, air-conditioned meeting rooms
- comfortable shoes
- money for food ([check out these Tips for doing GA on a Budget](#))
- money for tips for housekeeping in your hotel/lodging
- medication, only enough for yourself for the week



These items are good to bring with you if you have them:

- [Standing on the Side of Love](#) shirt (will be available for purchase in the Exhibit Hall)
- camera or smartphone
- cell phone for keeping in touch with sponsors/youth
- money for the Exhibit Hall
- small musical instruments for spontaneous jam sessions (put a luggage tag with your name and contact info on the case)
- board or card games (write your name on games you bring) for our super fun game night
- something fancy or fun to wear for the GA dance
- your copy of [Just Mercy](#) for author and [Ware Lecturer Bryan Stevenson](#) to sign (will be available for purchase in the Exhibit Hall)