



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION

# What to Expect at Virtual GA 2021

## “Circle 'Round for Justice-Healing-Courage!”

A UUA Board of Trustees Webinar



# What to Expect at GA 2021

## Presenters:

- 🕯️ Members of the UUA Board of Trustees
- 🕯️ Members of the Commission on Social Witness
- 🕯️ Members of the Article II Study Commission





# Agenda

- 🕯️ Introduction (Agenda and Attendee Tools)
- 🕯️ Highlights of This Year – *Circle 'Round for Justice-Healing-Courage*
  - 🕯️ General Sessions
  - 🕯️ Featured Speakers
  - 🕯️ On-Demand Content
- 🕯️ Proposed Bylaw Amendments
- 🕯️ Commission on Social Witness
- 🕯️ Article II Study Commission
- 🕯️ Virtual GA Experience and Resources



# Attendee Tools for this Meeting

- 🔊 Webinar is being recorded
- 🔊 Dial-In Connection/Computer Connection
- 🔊 Listen-Only Mode
- 🔊 Use of Chat Tools (Q & A Sessions)
- 🔊 Closed Captioning Available
- 🔊 Audio and Captioning Quality Survey



# 2021 Highlights



# The Grid



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021 Virtual GA Summary Schedule (Subject to Change)

EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Wednesday 6/23	Thursday 6/24	Friday 6/25	Saturday 6/26	Sunday 6/27
11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM		Daily Grounding Worship 30 to 45 min.	Daily Grounding Worship 30 to 45 min.	Daily Grounding Worship 30 to 45 min.	
11:15 AM	10:15 AM	9:15 AM	8:15 AM					
11:30 AM	10:30 AM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM					
11:45 AM	10:45 AM	9:45 AM	8:45 AM					
12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM					
12:15 PM	11:15 AM	10:15 AM	9:15 AM	Orientation 1 hour	Group Networking & Caucus Time 1 hour	Group Networking & Caucus Time 1 hour	Group Networking & Caucus Time 1 hour	Sunday Worship 1.25 hours
12:30 PM	11:30 AM	10:30 AM	9:30 AM					
12:45 PM	11:45 AM	10:45 AM	9:45 AM					
1:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM					
1:15 PM	12:15 PM	11:15 AM	10:15 AM					
1:30 PM	12:30 PM	11:30 AM	10:30 AM					Coffee Hour 1 hour
1:45 PM	12:45 PM	11:45 AM	10:45 AM					
2:00 PM	1:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	Milwaukee Spotlight 1.5 hours	General Session 3 hours	General Session 3 hours	General Session 3 hours	General Session 1.75 hours
2:15 PM	1:15 PM	12:15 PM	11:15 AM					
2:30 PM	1:30 PM	12:30 PM	11:30 AM					
2:45 PM	1:45 PM	12:45 PM	11:45 AM					
3:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	12:00 PM					
3:15 PM	2:15 PM	1:15 PM	12:15 PM					
3:30 PM	2:30 PM	1:30 PM	12:30 PM					
3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:45 PM	12:45 PM	Group Networking & Caucus Time 1.5 hours				
4:00 PM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM					
4:15 PM	3:15 PM	2:15 PM	1:15 PM					
4:30 PM	3:30 PM	2:30 PM	1:30 PM					
4:45 PM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM	1:45 PM					
5:00 PM	4:00 PM	3:00 PM	2:00 PM					
5:15 PM	4:15 PM	3:15 PM	2:15 PM					
5:30 PM	4:30 PM	3:30 PM	2:30 PM		Live Webinar Programming 1.5 hours	Live Webinar Programming 1.5 hours	Live Webinar Programming 1.5 hours	Closing Celebration 1.25 hours
5:45 PM	4:45 PM	3:45 PM	2:45 PM					
6:00 PM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM	3:00 PM					
6:15 PM	5:15 PM	4:15 PM	3:15 PM	Opening Celebration 1.5 hours				
6:30 PM	5:30 PM	4:30 PM	3:30 PM					
6:45 PM	5:45 PM	4:45 PM	3:45 PM					
7:00 PM	6:00 PM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM					
7:15 PM	6:15 PM	5:15 PM	4:15 PM		Service of the Living Tradition 1.25 hours	Synergy Bridging Worship 1.25 hours	Ware Lecture 1 hour	
7:30 PM	6:30 PM	5:30 PM	4:30 PM					
7:45 PM	6:45 PM	5:45 PM	4:45 PM					
8:00 PM	7:00 PM	6:00 PM	5:00 PM					
8:15 PM	7:15 PM	6:15 PM	5:15 PM					
8:30 PM	7:30 PM	6:30 PM	5:30 PM	General Session 1.5 hours				
8:45 PM	7:45 PM	6:45 PM	5:45 PM		Reflections and Networking 1 hour	Entertainment 1 hour	Reflections and Networking 1 hour	
9:00 PM	8:00 PM	7:00 PM	6:00 PM					
9:15 PM	8:15 PM	7:15 PM	6:15 PM					



# Highlights of Virtual General Assembly

🕒 Theme – *Circle 'Round for...*

🕒 On-Demand Programming

🕒 The Participation Portal

[www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)



# Demonstration of the Participation Portal and GA App





# Your GA Experience: Participation Portal

**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION PORTAL**

**Larry Stritof**, Admin  
preferences logout

Resources

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**CHANNELS**

- News and Updates
- Main Stage
- Poster Fair
- On-Demand Library
- Affiliate Events

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**ONLY ON THE WHOVA APP**

- Exhibit Hall
- Attendee Directory
- Community Boards

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**SCHEDULE**

- Today's Events
- Full Schedule
- Workshops

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Ask Me

**Sunday Morning Worship**

**VIRTUAL UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!  
Event #501

**Birch**

Welcome to my new Chatroll!

LarryStritof

Virtual General Assembly2021

Live poll 1

GS1. Adopt the Rules of Procedure as printed in the 2021 GA Program

Oppose 1

In Favor 0

Abstain 0

Edit response

slido

[report voting issue](#) [open voting in new window](#)

## Discussion Tool

The Discussion Tool will be undergoing some revisions for 2021. We plan to leverage Zoom meetings to allow delegates to put their face and their voice to their statement at the virtual



# GA App by *Whova*

**Agenda** – access the GA Schedule and view On-Demand Programs →

**Attendees** – message fellow participants →

**Community** – join Discussion Boards →

**Exhibitors** – enter the Virtual Exhibit Hall →

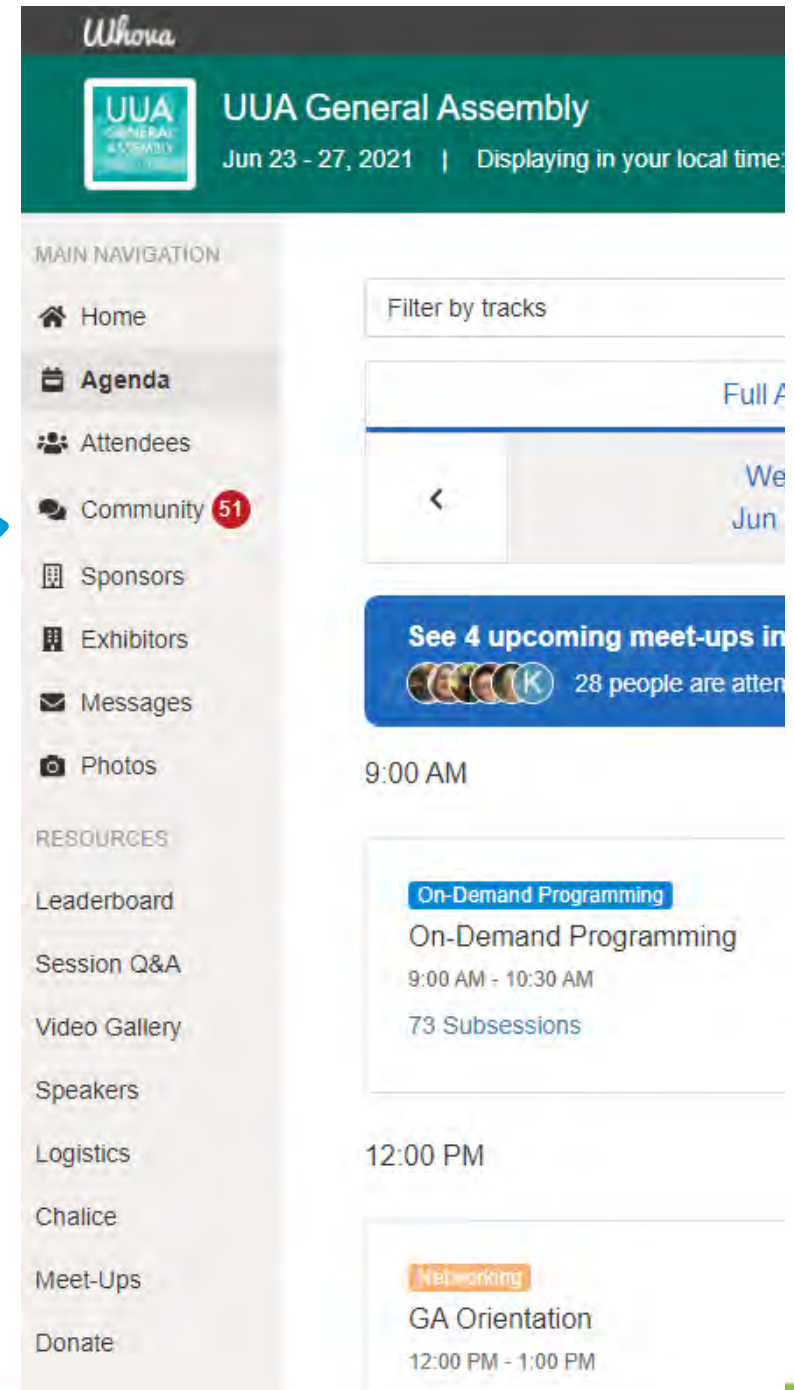
**Photos** – view congregational banners and other uploads →

**Leaderboard** – earn points for posts and activity on the app →

**Speakers** – discover or communicate with GA presenters →

**Chalice** – light it up →

**Donate** – we make it easy →





# What is Where?

## Both



- Delegate Discussion & Voting Tools
- Link to Exhibit Hall
- Livestreamed Workshops & Sessions
- Main Stage Chat Roll (tree rooms)
- Main Stage Video

- Announcements & Updates
- Ask Me / Contact Support
- Business Agenda
- Community Covenant & Participation Agreement
- Donations
- Handouts
- Links to Meet-ups & Private Events
- On-Demand Video
- Poster Fair
- Program Book PDF
- Program Schedule/Agenda



- Attendee Messaging
- Community Discussion Boards
- Exhibit Hall
- Photo Gallery
- Session Feedback
- Social Posting & Leaderboard
- Speaker Descriptions
- Surveys



Questions?





# Program Highlights

- 🕒 70+ On-Demand Workshops
- 🕒 39 webinars to choose from for live participation
- 🕒 All live webinars will eventually be available for on-demand viewing
- 🕒 View the complete GA Schedule at [bit.ly/GAschedule21](http://bit.ly/GAschedule21)



# Ware Lecture



## Stacey Abrams

Bestselling author of  
*Our Time Is Now* and  
*Lead from the Outside*

Launched **Fair Fight Action** to ensure  
fairness in our election system



## Desmond Meade

Author of Beacon Press title  
*Let My People Vote: My Battle to Restore  
the Rights of Returning Citizens*

President of the **Florida Rights  
Restoration Coalition**



# Sunday Morning Worship

The **First Universalist Church of Minneapolis** will serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service.

- ⊕ Shared ministry
- ⊕ Innovative approaches to worship
- ⊕ Building anti-racist, anti-oppressive practices at the center of their ministry





# The Business of the Association





# Changes in 2021

🕒 Updated and Modified Rules of Procedure

🕒 Mini-Assemblies

🕒 Rules of Procedure Webinars

🕒 Business Agenda Items

🕒 Elections



# General Sessions

- ⊕ General Sessions will take place in the Participation Portal. Only registered delegates will be able to participate in the discussion.
- ⊕ General Sessions will be live streamed.
- ⊕ Registrants and delegates will be able to discuss business through chat rooms in the Participation Portal.
- ⊕ The Final Agenda and Rules of Procedure will be available at [www.uua.org/ga/program/business-agenda](http://www.uua.org/ga/program/business-agenda).



# Rules of Procedure Changes

- ④ Rules in "Plain Language"
- ④ Adopt, then amend rules
- ④ Information Room will
  - ④ Direct delegates to the right line
  - ④ Answer questions and alert Moderator to need to address



# Elections Amendments Recap

## Bylaws Amendment to **Sections 9.5(a) and 9.5(b)**

- ⊕ Provides for the Presidential and Moderator Search Committees to offer at least one candidate (instead of requiring nominating at least two) by November 15





# Elections Amendments Recap

## Bylaws Amendment to **Section 8.3**

- ⌚ Provides for up to 45 days after GA for the newly elected President to assume their duties

## Rules Amendment to **Rule G-9.13.7**

- ⌚ Shortens the campaign cycle



# Religious Education Credentialing Committee Amendments Recap

## Bylaws Amendment to **Section 12.4**

- ⊕ Removes detailed naming of levels of credentialing to provide flexibility for making updates in the future

## Bylaws Amendment to **Sections 5.11 & 7.13**

- ⊕ Replaces references to “Credentialed Religious—Master Level” with “Credentialed Religious Educator at the highest level granted by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.”



# Commission on Social Witness Bylaws Amendment

## **Section 4.16(b)5. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies.**

- ⊕ Adds a requirement that CSW actions will be posted on the UUA website and in other UUA communications



# General Assembly Registration Rules Amendment

## Rule G-4.9.8. Payment of Registration Fee.

- ⊕ Removes requirement for delegates, alternate delegates, and UUA trustees to pay a registration fee to vote at GA.
- ⊕ Replace with new **Rule 4.9.8. Registration.**, which requires all delegates, alternate delegates, and UUA trustees to register in order to vote at GA.





# Voting in UUA Elections

Delegates from Certified Congregations may vote

## Online

Opens on June 1, 10 AM ET / 9 AM CT /  
8 AM MT / 7 AM PT / 6 AM AT / 4 AM HT

Closes on June 25, 12 PM ET / 11 AM CT /  
10 AM MT / 9 AM PT / 8 AM AT / 6 AM HT



# Voting in UUA Elections

Delegates from Certified Congregations may vote

## By Mail

Postmarked by June 12

OR

Received by June 14

 For more information, visit

[https://www.uua.org/files/2021-04/2021\\_uua\\_election\\_info.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2021-04/2021_uua_election_info.pdf)



# Candidates for UUA Elected Office

## Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Mount - position #3 (3-year term)

JeKaren Olaoya - position #6 (3-year term)

Sam Trumbore - position #8 (3-year term)

Jay Kiskel - position #8 (3-year term) — *by petition*

This candidate submitted a petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees (for position #8) to the Board Secretary on March 12, 2021.



# Candidates for UUA Elected Office

## Financial Advisor

Lucia Santini Field (1-year term)

## Nominating Committee

Tim Atkins (2-year term)

Danielle Di Bona (1-year term)

Cristy Cardinal (3-year term)





# Candidates for UUA Elected Office

Commission on Appraisal

Adrian Graham (6-year term)

For candidate biographies and statements, visit:

[https://www.uua.org/files/2021-04/nom\\_slate\\_bio\\_2021.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2021-04/nom_slate_bio_2021.pdf)



# Responsive Resolutions

## What is a responsive resolution?

- ⊕ Response to a substantive portion of a report during General Assembly. A responsive resolution differs from an AIW, in that it originates from content in a substantive portion of a *report by an officer or committee* reporting to a regular General Assembly.

## Why don't I see any responsive resolutions on the agenda?

- ⊕ Because they are “responsive,” they are based on information shared during GA



# Responsive Resolutions

## **How would I propose a responsive resolution?**

- ⊕ The author of a Responsive Resolution must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of the Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT / 2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT on Friday, June 26 for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered throughout the week.

## **When are responsive resolutions presented?**

- ⊕ They are presented in General Session on Sunday afternoon of GA.
- ⊕ Submit Proposed Responsive Resolutions to:

[Moderator@uua.org](mailto:Moderator@uua.org)



# Mini-Assembly Process





# Mini-Assembly Basics

- ⊕ Mini-Assemblies serve to **learn** about the specific **details** of the scheduled topic and to propose amendments. They are **not** a place to **debate** the pros and cons of an issue.
- ⊕ If you wish to **propose amendments** to a proposed bylaw amendment your proposed amendment(s) must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered at the General Session. *New amendments cannot be made in the General Session.*



# Mini-Assembly Basics

- ⊕ After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in General Session, the Board may **incorporate proposed amendments** into a Bylaw.
- ⊕ The Business Mini-Assembly will be held at 3 PM ET / 2 PM CT / 1 PM MT / 12 PM PT / 11 AM AT / 9 AM HT on Wednesday, June 23, before General Session I.



# **Commission on Social Witness**

## **Implementing Statement of Conscience**

### **Actions of Immediate Witness**



# Commission on Social Witness

## About

The Commission's charge is to oversee the collective social witness process among Unitarian Universalist Association (Association) member congregations and groups. Social witness is the act of courageously affirming what is just and good through speech and action that demonstrates solidarity with those who are marginalized; collective social witness collaboratively imagines and embodies social witness for collective liberation.



# Commission on Social Witness

## **Mission**

To amplify emerging social action, promote connections, and nurture accountable social witness across the Association.

## **Approach**

We pursue our vision and mission in accountable relationships that seek equitable empowerment with people and groups most impacted by oppression, hate, and violence. Together, we celebrate how seeking justice in news ways of relating brings joy to the process of collective social witness.





# Witness This! at GA

**All are invited to our live sessions at GA!**

## **Report on Collective Witness Listening Sessions**

Thursday at 5–6:30 PM ET / 4–5:30 PM CT / 3–4:30 PM MT /  
2–3:30 PM PT / 1–2:30 AT / 11 AM–12:30 PM HT

## **Witness This! From Across the Association & Mini- Assembly**

Friday at at 5–6:30 PM ET / 4–5:30 PM CT / 3–4:30 PM MT /  
2–3:30 PM PT / 1–2:30 AT / 11 AM–12:30 PM HT



# Witness This! at GA

**All are invited to our live sessions at GA!**

## **Action of Immediate Witness Networking Session**

Saturday at at 5–6:30 PM ET / 4–5:30 PM CT / 3–4:30 PM MT  
/ 2–3:30 PM PT / 1–2:30 AT / 11 AM–12:30 PM HT

## **Sharing Witness Actions: CSW will report on what we've learned about actions across the Association.**

General Session III on Saturday, June 26th around 2 PM ET /  
1 PM CT / 12 PM MT / 11 AM PT / 10 AM AT / 8 AM HT



# Commission on Social Witness

## **Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):**

Proposed AIWs, with cover sheets, must be emailed to [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org) as an attachment in an approved format (RTF, Microsoft Word, or Google Doc) by Wednesday, June 23 at 10 PM ET / 9 PM CT / 8 PM MT / 7 PM PT / 6 PM AT / 4 PM HT.

**We strongly encourage proposers to submit AIWs at least two weeks before General Assembly** so that we have time to provide feedback. (The timeline at GA does not allow time to request revisions.) In the event your AIW does not meet criteria, early submission is essential for an opportunity to revise and resubmit.



# Commission on Social Witness

## **Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):**

AIW criteria are published here:

<https://www.uua.org/action/process/guide/aiw/criteria>

Format guidelines and cover sheet information are available here: <https://www.uua.org/action/process/guide/aiw/submitting>

**Delegates vote on AIWs: Friday, June 25,  
2:30 PM ET / 1:30 PM CT / 12:30 PM MT / 11:30 AM PT /  
10:30 AM AT / 8:30 AM HT**



# Commission on Social Witness

## Statement of Conscience

- ⊕ Delegates will consider the draft Statement of Conscience titled “Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action.”
- ⊕ The current draft is on the UUA website, or available at [tinyurl.com/draftsoc2021](https://tinyurl.com/draftsoc2021).
- ⊕ Email [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org) until **Thursday, June 24 at 5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT / 2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT** with questions/feedback about the draft SOC.





# Commission on Social Witness

## Statement of Conscience

- ⊕ CSW holding a session on Friday, June 25 at 5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT / 2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT to share what local congregations and groups are doing to implement the draft Statement of Conscience (come ready to share as desired). This session will also review suggested revisions to the draft.
- ⊕ **Delegates vote on Draft Statement of Conscience:  
Saturday, June 26th, 2 PM ET / 1 PM CT / 12 PM MT /  
11 AM PT / 10 AM AT / 8 AM HT.**



Questions?



# Article II Study Commission



# Article II Study Commission


## Members of the Commission

- 🕯️ Becky Brooks, Co-Chair
- 🕯️ Rev. Cheryl M. Walker, Co-Chair
- 🕯️ Paula Cole-Jones
- 🕯️ Satya Mamdani
- 🕯️ Rob Spirko
- 🕯️ Maya Waller



# Article II Study Commission

## Staff Support

 Marcus Fogliano, Project Manager

## Board Liaisons

 Meg Riley, UUA Co-Moderator

 Greg Boyd, UUA Trustee

 Kathy Burek, UUA Trustee





# Charge to Commission

- ⊕ The UUA Board has charged the Article II Study Commission with:
  - ⊕ Rooting Love as the principle to guide in its work
  - ⊕ Reviewing all sections of Article II
  - ⊕ Revising, replacing, or restructuring them as needed



# Article II Study Commission Activities at GA

## **General Session: Thursday, June 24**

🕯️ Report from the Commission

1:30 PM ET / 12:30 PM CT / 11:30 AM MT /  
10:30 AM PT / 9:30 AM AT / 7:30 AM HT

**Workshops: 5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT /  
2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT**

🕯️ Friday, June 25, "Storying Our Principles"

🕯️ Saturday, June 26, "What We Promise Each Other"



# For More Information

**All Commission members**  
[article2studycommission@uua.org](mailto:article2studycommission@uua.org)

**Marcus Fogliano,  
Project Manager**  
[changemanager@uua.org](mailto:changemanager@uua.org)

**Find us on UUA.org**  
[Article II Study Commission](#)

**Find us on Facebook**  
[UUA Article II Study Commission](#)



Questions?



# Your GA Experience

Delegates

Care Teams





## Your GA Experience

- 🕯️ **Delegate Credentials**—More info at [www.uua.org/game /congregations/credentials](http://www.uua.org/game/congregations/credentials)
- 🕯️ **Are you a minister or LREDA member in service to a congregation?** Visit: [ga-delegate.uua.org](http://ga-delegate.uua.org)
- 🕯️ **Encourage Registration**—More UUs making more justice
- 🕯️ **Financial Support**—Available during registration via self-selection



# GA Registration Required

## Free to View

Live-streamed on [uua.org](http://uua.org) and the UUA YouTube channel

General Sessions

Service of the Living Tradition

Synergy Bridging Worship

Sunday Morning Worship

Candidate's Forum

## Registration Required

Opening and Closing Celebrations

Delegate participation and voting in General Sessions

Ware Lecture

Exhibit Hall

GA Programs and Workshops

Participation Portal

In **September**, the On-Demand Video Library (including the Ware Lecture) will be migrated from the portal to be **publicly accessible**



## GA Care Teams

Accessibility & Inclusion Team

Chaplain Team

Conflict & Covenant Team

Systemic Justice Team



## GA Care Teams

**Accessibility & Inclusion** works with the GACS office to identify the accessibility and inclusion services needed for registered GA participants and consult with the GACS office to provide these services, subject to the budget and volunteer capacity. Provides care and support for questions or concerns around accessibility and inclusion accommodations and/or offering resources for all registered attendees (and/or their caregivers).

**Chaplains** manage and coordinate care for attendees experiencing spiritual or physical crisis during GA.



## GA Care Teams

**Conflict & Covenant** assists participants who are in conflict and/or whose actions violate the GA covenant.

**Systemic Justice** assists attendees from currently and/or historically marginalized communities in creating structural change by providing access and advocacy to challenge and change oppressive structures and/or systems.



# Additional Information and Resources





## Sunday Service Donations

MICAH, **Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope**, will be the GA 2021 Collection recipient.

MICAH will be featured on the GA 2021 Collections landing page, and available as a **text-to-give** option.

A **mailer** will go out to GA registrants, with instructions to send checks for MICAH directly to Milwaukee.

New: An **Express Donate** option to make a single, larger contribution that will be divided evenly among the four special collections.



## Additional Resources

### Get ready to grow in faith at General Assembly 2021

- 🕯️ Prepare to be together
- 🕯️ Prepare your spirit
- 🕯️ Prepare to worship
- 🕯️ Prepare your inner activist
- 🕯️ Prepare to be online several hours a day for a week

There are dozens of resources to help you prepare! Visit the [GA website](#) get ready.

For a list of links, see

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/>



Thank you for participating!

- 🕒 Use the new GA app powered by Whova for up-to-the-minute information.  
[Apple, Android, or desktop browser](#)
- 🕒 Recorded webinar and this presentation will be posted on the General Assembly Delegate Information webpage.
- 🕒 Welcome to Virtual GA!



# Final Questions?