

UUA General Assembly 2022

Policy on Disruptions and Unscheduled Events

General Assembly strives to be an inclusive community, affirming our diversity of beliefs, backgrounds, and life experiences. When unscheduled events, protests, disruptive, discriminatory, or harassing behavior compromises the health and safety of this community, our actions as people of faith must reflect an emphasis on security and wellbeing of all participants. During a multi-platform event, it is especially important that the program follows its plans for inclusion and accessibility of both onsite and online attendees, and its commitments to COVID safety for onsite attendees.

Any person, group, or activity that disrupts General Assembly or endangers the health and/or safety of other attendees, staff, or guests will be asked to meet with our GA Care Teams, cease and desist behaviors or activities, and/or leave GA spaces. UUA staff and leaders, OCC staff and event security, and anyone else requested by GA event planners may all be involved as appropriate. Any registered person or activity that violates the GA Covenant or this policy may have their registration revoked without refund.

Activities at the Oregon Convention Center

Access to the GA program and event spaces (both onsite and online) is restricted to those who are registered for the event. This ensures that all GA program participants are in compliance with the COVID safety policies, and have agreed to the GA Covenant Agreement and Practices for Participation and Discussion (GA Covenant), which is presented at the point of registration. Access to the onsite program and the Oregon Convention Center is limited to onsite registrants only. Access to online GA program spaces is open to online and onsite registrants, but not business-only delegates (business-only delegates engage through the virtual Delegate Platform). As part of the GA program, scheduled events are led by event organizers or approved program participants and sponsors, and are accountable to the GA event goals and covenant. Unscheduled events, such as protests or demonstrations, may not occur inside any privately contracted space for GA that is within the OCC or other facilities, unless there is prior written permission from the UUA Director of General Assembly and Conference Services.

Unscheduled activities outside of the contracted convention center spaces are limited to areas specified by the City of Portland and the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC). This is defined in the MERC Unscheduled Activities Regulation which covers commission facilities including the OCC, and the OCC's security staff oversees the policy at the convention center. Relevant sections of the regulation include:

- “No person shall engage in any activity on any portion of the premises of Commission Facilities which shall impede or interfere with the safe ingress to or egress from those portions of the Commission Facilities which are then in use for scheduled activities, or which shall create a risk of injury to any person or damage to property.”
- “Engaging in disorderly conduct, harassment, abusive language, or any activity likely to disturb, disrupt, or interfere with performances and other activities conducted at Commission Facilities is prohibited.”
- “No person shall set up on Commission premises any solid object such as, but not limited to, a table or chair, or restrict passage with bicycles, skateboards, carts, large backpacks, or anything that creates obstacles, takes up seating, or creates a risk of injury to any person or damage to property.”

The GA 2022 Safety Team may provide accompaniment services, as needed, for certain individuals and/or events during GA. The Safety Team will partner with other UUA leaders and staff, OCC staff and private event security, as needed.

Online Activities

Online GA spaces, such as workshops and chat rooms, are limited to registered GA participants. Disruptions, such as attempting to take over a conversation or spam the chat, are not allowed. The GA Conflict & Covenant Team will respond to concerns raised about any online actions that violate the GA covenant or this policy.

Policy on Literature Distribution

To allow attendees to focus on and participate in the GA program, and to limit the environmental footprint and maintain appropriate physical distancing onsite, distributed information should be related to the GA program and events. Promotional literature regarding anything outside the GA program may be distributed inside the OCC or other contracted GA spaces only in the following ways:

- Exhibitors may distribute printed information and/or marketing materials from within their paid exhibit online or onsite booths at GA.
- Program presenters and participants may distribute handouts and information related to their program, from within their designated meeting room in a manner that does not impede traffic or accessibility, or online through their program venue.

Onsite in Portland, no information and/or marketing content may be distributed in the pre-function, registration, dining, or other areas contracted by the UUA for General Assembly. Online registrants may share links to relevant information if it is not disruptive to the event or otherwise in violation of the GA covenant or this policy.

Content of literature or other promotional materials distributed inside the OCC or other contracted GA spaces must follow the GA covenant and support the overall goals of the event.