

# Commission on Social Witness 1-9-25 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** CSW Commissioners - Rev. Nancy Reid McKee (chair), Rev. Cindy Landrum (commissioner), Antoinette Scully (nominee), John Newhall (Board Liaison), and Susan Leslie (consultant)

## **AGENDA & ACTION ITEMS:**

**Roles for CSW** - chair, secretary, treasurer etc. - will discuss at next meeting when we have confirmation of new commissioners

**Budget** – GA costs, stipends, study materials - Nancy will get clarity on budget from Nicole - on both this year's and next.

**UUA Board** - Getting time with the Board to brief them on CSAIs and social witness process - Nancy wrote to Stephanie (UUA Governance Officer) - will try for the spring meeting.

Board will vote to approve nominations of Antoinette and Isabel to the CSW at their next meeting. Nancy will let everyone know.

**Discuss.uua.org** – Board & UUA Administration do expect that CSW will monitor discussion of CSAIs (SOC) & AIWs. Nancy suggests orientation and training for monitoring discussion - take shifts among CSW. Can also work with proposers to help monitor.

**Info/Feedback Sessions for CSAI discussions** - wait to set up dates on this once Board dates are set.

**Comms re CSAIs** - Still need CSAIs updated to take proposers' phone numbers off the pages. Nancy will write to Audra Friend ([afriend@uua.org](mailto:afriend@uua.org)) and Jeff Milchen ([jmilchen@uua.org](mailto:jmilchen@uua.org)) with cc to Nicole Pressley about this. Find out what has gone out to congregations re poll. Susan wrote to Rachel Walden in UUA Comms (with cc to Nancy, Nicole & Audra in OST, Paul Mullins in IT)

**AIW Timeline** – Nancy's trip is cancelled but we will stick to schedule that was agreed upon at last meeting. See <https://www.uua.org/action/process/aiw>.

**GA Booth** – What can we do to attract people to the booth? Copies of proposals, FAQs, hear from the proposers - give them time at the booth – they can bring swag - e.g. fat liberation buttons; Design catchy ribbon for CSW - democracy starts with us - it's important to vote!

CSW, SOC, CSAI, AIW - ask me about these acronyms. Do some creative brainstorming.

**Action:** Nancy will ask Audra if there is a CSW Banner and Booth Box at UUA HQ

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 13th (2nd Thursday of the month) at 1 pm PST, 3 pm Central, 4 pm EST

## **Commission on Social Witness 2-13-25 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** CSW Commissioners - Rev. Nancy Reid McKee (Chair), Rev. Cindy Landrum (Commissioner), Dr. Sharon Welch (Commissioner), Antoinette Scully (Commissioner), Rev. Isabel Call (Commissioner), John Newhall (Board liaison), and Susan Leslie (Consultant)

**Welcome** newly Board-appointed commissioners Antoinette Scully and Rev. Isabel Call

### **CSW Roles:**

Antoinette will take on treasurer

Isabel will take on secretary (Cindy will be back-up)

Susan will be in touch with Isabel to hand off note taking

Nancy will be in touch with Antionette about the budget.

### **Budget - GA Expenses:**

Antionette's travel and housing is covered by UU Women's Federation (UUWF)

Cindy may have some professional expenses and co-housing

Sharon needs housing and travel (John can share some of his professional budget with Sharon)

Isabel needs some help with housing and travel

Nancy needs some financial help

### **General Assembly Booth:**

Nancy has let CSAI proposers know that CSW would like them to schedule an hour at the booth that can be advertised.

### **Brainstorm for Booth Content:**

- How many copies are needed for CSAIs? AIWs? Most people look at on-line - could do as displays
- Posters about Justice and Social Witness - Love is Our Resistance - small 8 x 11 posters - use some of the language in the CSW mission statement
- Display Board - Housing Justice, Fat Liberation, Abolitionism - can do for AIWs too - re this is what's being voted on at this GA
- Banner for Booth - CSW - Audra is making this
- Buttons for each CSAI
- Ask Me buttons for CSW members (UUA may still have hats) or sashes

- Buttons - UUs Value Social Witness, Don't Forget to Love Each Other
- Something about participating in the process
- Solidarity

### **CSW Mission & Promotional Language:**

Currently it is:

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.

CSW will take a look at mission they inherited and consider some changes, particularly the word marginalized.

Cindy suggests: Even shorter: Collective social witness acts courageously for justice through solidarity with those who are oppressed and imagines and embodies liberation.

### **CSW Contacts for CSAI Proposers:**

Sharon will take housing

Cindy will take fat liberation

Antoinette will take abolitionism as faith formation

### **CSAI Feedback Sessions:**

Hold 1 for each CSAI in April

Last year we did Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays at 7 pm EDT

How about if we offer all the Tuesdays and Thursdays in April at 4 pm EDT, 7 pm EDT

Start with Thursday, April 10, 17, 24

Start with Tuesday April 9, 15, 22

**Action:** Nancy will send out a note to CSAI proposers with possible dates, keeping in mind which ones the CSAI proposer CSW liaison will be available.

### **AIW Schedule & Promotion:**

AIW Submissions - can start March 18th - how to get the word out?

- Rachel Walden, UUA Comms Staff will put in the congregational newsletter and UUA Facebook post

- Ask Nicole Pressley and Audra Friend at Organizing Strategy Team/Side with Love if they will do a Side with Love message from Nancy about the CSW process this year and post on their FB page too
- Regional Newsletters & FB pages
- CSW FB page
- UUMA and LREDA newsletters and posts
- UU State Networks

### **Board Diversity Training, Feb. 26th:**

CSW invited, registration is closed. Nancy will ask John to include Antionette in the training.

*Seeds of a New Way* book sent out to people who are taking the training

### **Moderation of UUA Discussion Board at GA:**

<https://discuss.uua.org/> - Moderators want CSW to monitor/moderate CSAI and AIW discussions

There are guidelines for moderation

Questions about the social witness process also come up - that's for the CSW

CSW can set up a time with Larry to discuss this

Nancy will talk to Nicole Pressley, Staff Liaison about all this and get her advice - CSW has concerns re gadflies, time, emotional toll, etc.

CSW can give feedback to UUA about [discuss/uua.org](https://discuss.uua.org/)

**Next Meeting:** March 13, 4 pm ET/1 pm PT (*Note: This meeting was rescheduled to April 3, 2025*)