

At our August phone call the Board appointed an ad hoc task force convened by Joan Lund joined by Lew Phinney, Jake Morrill, Susan Ritchie, David Friedman, and Clyde Grubbs. The mission of the ad hoc task force was to make recommendations relative to the Report of the Fifth Principle Task Force including 1) how will the Board deliberate on the report's recommendations and 2) how will bring the recommendations to the General Assembly.

The ad hoc task force brings these recommendations to the October 2012 meeting and after Board deliberation, the task force will present a final plan for the General Assembly at the January 2013 meeting.

Our recommendation is that the Board accept **fundamental objectives of the Fifth Principal Task Force**: to make General Assembly more democratic, delegates more accountable; make the assembly less expensive, less economically discriminatory, less generationally discriminatory, and more active in policy formation. Further we recommend that the Board recommend to the General Assembly the key enabling actions recommended by the Fifth Principle Task Force: 3) and that in order to make the subsidy of delegates to our Governing Assembly affordable that the number of delegates be reduced to approximately 2000.

(This would not be a significant reduction in the number of delegates who actually attend General Assembly but a formal reduction in the number of delegates congregations could potentially send.)

The ad hoc task force had significant differences relative to when the proposal should be presented to the General Assembly. There were two strongly articulated approaches to timing.

1. One position is that the Fifth Principle Task Force report was part of a commitment that the Board had made in 2010 to governance transformation at all levels of the Association. This position holds that we should have faith in the delegates to accept and pass the proposal because they want governance transformation, and it is ‘timely.’ The proposal should be introduced in June 2013.
2. A second position holds that the Fifth Principle Task Force is an transformative proposal and a lot of work been put into it. Therefore the Association should institute a transformation of General Assembly along the lines of this report. However, there is 1) there is considerable justified anxiety and resistance to this proposal among People of Color, youth, young adults, community ministers, UUs involved in justice work, UUs involved in organizations that meet at General Assembly. The proposal will need 2/3 of the delegates voting to change the bylaws in the various ways proposed.

If the 5th Principle Task Force’s by law changes are voted down at GA 2013, it will be a set back. Therefore the by-law changes involved in the 5th Principle Task Force should come to the delegates after substantial discussion and deliberate incorporation of the concerns of stakeholders.