

UUA BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JUNE 26, 2006  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
DPA OBSERVER NOTES

The meeting was called to order by Gini Courter, UUA Moderator. Introductions were made of UUA Board of Trustees and observers.

General Assembly:

1. Board Workshops:

Anti Racism/Anti Oppression/Multi Culturalism (AR/AO/MC): The board role played a board meeting scenario. It was felt that it worked well. Some late comers to the session thought it was real.

2. Congregational Presidents (CPs) Workshop:

Very successful workshops. CPs appreciated the time to network, discuss issues

Saturday session: They went into groups of 4 and discussed either conflict & crisis, governance, growth (largest group), social justice. List 3 things to accomplish in the next year. Each CP filled out a card and the District Trustees will check in with each congregation represented and see how they are doing.

Suggestions:

Need conveners and assistants to stay at meeting to help with latecomers.

John Blevins suggested asking CPs how the UUA board was doing when the trustees contact them. John also suggested that one District Executive (DE) commented that the report back at Gini and Bill's workshop was too long and maybe needed a more efficient process?

Eva Marx commented that they used a 30 second time limit at the CP workshop on Thursday and Saturday. CPs were asked to only report back on something special.

Linda Olson Peebles had a concern about the trustee contacting the CPs rather than the District Presidents.

3. Growth Working Group Workshops:

Jackie Shanti: Breakthrough Congregations had well prepared workshops. Harlan Limpert (Director of District Services) will coordinate the workshops next year, rather than UUA board.

John Blevins: Should we be looking at highlighting breakthrough clusters?

Pat Solomon: Models for Growth-there are various models we need to learn about

Tamara Payne-Alex: Should Board be doing workshops?

Linda Olson Peebles: Need to be clear about board work versus staff work

4. Association Working Group Workshops:

Independent Affiliates: Concern whether the affiliates who have retirement plans with the UUA will be affected when new criteria for affiliates is instituted and they may not continue as affiliates. Communication between UUA board and affiliates needs to be better. Affiliates don't always keep the UUA up to date on their leadership contacts.

By Law Change Mini Assembly: Facilitators were often criticized and maligned during the process. It was a discouraging experience. Linda mentioned that Dave Rickard (facilitator) handled himself well during the session.

5. Board Table (Exhibition Hall):

Staffed at various times by board members.  
Number one issue was on the UUA health plan.  
Need larger signs to direct people to the table.

6. General Suggestions and Comments re: GA

Tamara: Exhibitors wished that they could attend the Sunday morning worship service but the hall was open from 9am-1pm.

Will Saunders: Would like to see a more reverent and intentional display and service for the deceased ministers.

Pat: Participants in the banner parade missed most of the opening ceremony. They have to stand in line for almost 1 ½ hours.  
Best GA ever!

Linda: It would be nice to have a story teller for concrete learners, especially at the opening ceremony and Sunday morning worship.  
Child care hours didn't match with plenary hours.

Need to keep the Service of the Living Tradition (SLT) a religious service.

Bill Sinkford (President of the UUA) is speaking with Beth Miller (new Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership) on improving the SLT. It is not a graduation service.

John B. It would be good to have the Board and UUA staff seated together at plenary.

The Committee on Social Witness (CSW) process feels broken.

Jose Ballester: The closed captioning was poor, especially during the SLT. The Special Commission Report (SCP) should be made more readily available to delegates. They didn't have a chance to read the whole report before hearing about it at plenary.

The scheduling for Sunday plenary conflicted with delegates that had arranged to leave on Sunday afternoon. The scheduling of the donor reception conflicted with the youth worship service on Saturday and many people left plenary hall.

General Assembly Plenary Session:

- Open discussion: Frame question differently
- Ushers: Handled medical issues very well
- Offertory on Sun. morning: Needed more time
- Board hosting closing ceremony: Great idea!
- Training: Good training of ushers
- Bridging ceremony: Unfortunate to be after long plenary
- UU University: Attendees want it every year!
- Moderator: Gini ministered to those in plenary!
- Acronyms: We continue to use them without regard for others
- AR/AO/MC work: Need sensitivity reminders
- CPs list serve: Already available for congregational presidents
- Katrina presentation: Needed more editing
- DRUUM (Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) and UUMN (Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network need to speak to one another about GA music
- UUA Board and UUSC: Looking for a covenantal relationship

## 7. Comments from Gini

In dialogue with the UU Minister's Association (UUMA)

The ministers on the UUA Board had lunch with UUMA Exec. Committee Gini thought she had e-mailed lay leaders on the board to make them aware of the lunch but her e-mail wasn't working properly. The two Groups have agreed to continue talking. Two reps from chapter execs and two reps from the UUA board will meet the day after the October board Meeting. The committee on committees (Sue Stuke) will find the 2

Ministers from the board.

8. October Board meeting:

John B. will try to get Alice Blair Wesley for the meeting.

Suggests delaying ends policy discussion (policy governance).

John suggests committee work begin on Tuesday night Oct. 17.

9. Motions re: Independent Affiliates

Tamara made motions to accept those affiliates who already have been affiliates. Motion passed.

The new application will have the new criteria for independent affiliate Status.

The UUA Board went into Executive Session.

The Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elyse M. Reznick

President, District President's Association

UUA Board Observer