



General Assembly
Planning Committee

Creating Community, Deepening Connections, Nourishing Dreams

January 6-9, 2011, Phoenix, AZ

Friday, January 7, 2011 9 AM until 2 PM

Planning Committee Participants: Lynda Shannon, Chair, Barb Atlas, Vice Chair Programs & Services, Tim Murphy, Vice Chair Plenary/Worship & Celebrations, Bart Frost, Secretary, Beth McGregor, Immediate Past Chair, Joan Benziger, Ginger Brown, Melodie Feather and the Rev. Walt Wieder; Mary Alm, TJ District Coordinator for GA 2011 and Jan Sneegas, Director of General Assembly and Conference Services for the UUA

Arizona Leadership Participants:

Rev. Ken Brown (PSW District Executive), Tera Little (PSW Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Carolyn Saunders (PSW District Coordinator for GA 2012)

UU Congregation of Phoenix: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Minister; Paula Kulina, President; Jimmy Leung, Vice-President; Sandra Weir, Immigration Task Force; Sun Principe, Social Justice Director; Heidi Parmenter, Congregation Administrator

Valley UU Church, Chandler: Rev. Gary Gallun, Minister; Marci Beaudoin, DRE; Kellie Walker, Director of Music Ministries; Carolina Krawarik, SSL Volunteer

UU Congregation of Green Valley: Rev. Bill Haney, Interim Minister; Lou Prince, Director of Music

UU Church of Tucson: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Minister

UU Church of Northwest Tucson: Rev. Joy Atkinson, Interim Minister and Rev. Susan Manker-Seale, former Minister

UU Church, Surprise: Rev. Terry Simms, Minister and Rev. Walt Wieder, Minister

Prescott UU Fellowship: Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Consulting Minister

UU Church of Southeast Arizona: Rev. Rod Richards, Minister

Welcome Guests: Rev. Dr. Earl Holt III, Sun Lakes, Arizona; Minister Emeritus of First Unitarian of St. Louis and Tommie O'Sullivan, Prescott, AZ

List of Topics for this Gathering (*generated by participants/ transcribed from newsprint*)

- a. How will GA in 2012 be different?
- b. What does it mean to have a “justice GA?”
- c. What is the role of local congregations in GA 2012?
- d. How does a GA get put together? Who’s who and what’s what?
- e. What special things does a district bring to GA?
- f. How can we build relationships?
- g. What is the Timeline for planning a GA?
- h. What is the GAPC commitment to local partners?
- i. How can local congregations help make GA different/frame conversation about justice?
- j. Roles and responsibilities of UUA Board, UUA Administration, GAPC and this new special task force [GA 2012 Advisory Group]
- k. What is our responsibility to various constituencies – diverse groups?
- l. How do we address differences of opinion within our congregations on whether GA should be held in Phoenix?
- m. How do we address all the justice concerns?
- n. How do we guarantee congregations go home from GA 2012 with information they need - internal and external relevancy?
- o. Grounding social justice work in theology
- p. Enrich everyone’s appreciation of this corner of UU-hood
- q. What would constitute “success” at public witness and service project?
- r. What is the process for including local and PSW district congregations in Public Witness decision-making? [ask Pres. Morales]
- s. Social witness and theology [discuss with Pres. Morales]
- t. How do we empower people who have a real passion around the immigration issue? [Morales]
- u. How do we get people to come to GA 2012?

Overview of GA Planning Timelines

In the meeting with the Arizona congregation representatives, Lynda Shannon, GAPC chair, covered the **basic timetable the GAPC follows**, emphasizing that the Committee was in Phoenix to work on GA 2011 in Charlotte. **Planning for the specifics of GA 2012 will begin following GA 2011**, first with a GAPC Exec Meeting over the summer, then a meeting of the General Assembly and Mission of the Association Partnership (GAMAP), the GRID meeting, and the GAPC big meeting in September where portfolio assignments are decided and a broad outline of the upcoming GA is sketched.

GAMAP Meeting September 13, 2011- UUA President convenes
GRID Meeting September 14, 2011 – the schedule is laid out
Program Proposal Application deadline – November 1, 2011
Year Out site PC Exec Meeting - January 2012 in Louisville
April 2012 – pre-site GAPC Meeting in Phoenix
June 2012 – General Assembly

1. Places/Spaces/Programs and Services/Budget/Conference Planning
 - **GAPC** recommends site for each GA; **UUA Board** approves
 - **GAPC** recommends Budget for each GA; **UUA Board** approves
 - The **staff** in the **GACS Office** at 25 Beacon Street manages all conference services including all contracts (like with hotels or the convention center and the tech team), assigning space for programs, registration, and publication in print and on the web of meeting materials.
 - Program Schedule and program selection is the purview of the GAPC; program selection is delegated to the **Program Development Group (PDG.)**

2. Planning Teams - the all volunteer GAPC is divided into two planning teams: **Programs and Services** which works with Jan Sneegas and the GACS staff, and with each year's District Coordinator and the Volunteer Committee, and **Plenary/Worship & Celebrations** that coordinates the activities that happen inside of Plenary Hall.

2. Questions from Break time Conversations
 - . What will be used for the 2012 site?
 - A. We will be using the Phoenix Convention Center. The GACS staff has initiated contracts with the Wyndham and Hyatt, and there is possible access to the ASU dorms. Depending on registration numbers as we get closer to GA 2012, other properties may be contracted for housing.

 - Q. What is the difference between the Service Project and the Public Witness event?
 - A. GAPC chooses the Service Project recommended by local congregations and the UUA Staff is responsible for the Public Witness (Witness Ministries, Susan Leslie, Director, Dan Furmansky, Standing on the Side of Love Manager, et al.)

 - Q. What are the roles of GAMAP, GAPC, Board and President's Offices with regard to each General Assembly?
 - A. **Roles and Responsibilities -- Who gets to decide? As agreed upon at GAMAP**
 - **GAPC:** plan General Assembly including where to meet/select worship leaders (except SLT and Sunday morning) /approve programs (vetted by the Program Development Group)/propose a GA budget, approve the schedule (GRID)/arrange for all support services.
 - **UUA Board:** approves site selection and budget proposed by GAPC. Conducts the business of the Association in mini-assemblies and in plenary sessions.
 - **Office of the President/UUA Administration:** President is spokesperson for the UUA; directs appropriate staff groups to plan and manage public witness event at GA. President selects worship leaders for SLT and Sunday morning. Collaborates with GAPC in selecting the Ware Lecturer.

GAMAP meets each September before the major GAPC Planning Meeting to

establish a shared vision for each GA and to address other GA-related issues that are important to all three entities. GAMAP met September 14, 2010 with an outside consultant from the Alban Institute and agreed upon the following:

A Statement of Purpose for GA 2012:

The UUA will offer a General Assembly in 2012, which transform individual and congregational capacity for effective public witness and influence on issues of justice.

As we gather in nonviolent protest with a focus on public witness and social action, we are committed to:

- *Identify outcomes in collaboration with our internal and external partners.*
- *Provide opportunities for participation by individuals of differing abilities and people with historically marginalized identities [including youth and young adults].*
- *Use General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina, to begin preparation.*

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Follow up with internal accountability constituencies: Gini suggested that she get in touch with these groups and ask them for a representative and an alternate to serve as a contact person to receive information/reports etc from the Board and the GAPC
2. The UUA Board will also follow up with Somos Board president on July request.

Conference Call: Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, Jackie Shanti, Vice-Moderator of the UUA Board and Eva Marx, Board Liaison to the GAPC were present via telephone conference/speaker phone. Questions had been developed to pose to the President.

Q. What would constitute success in public witness and for a service project?

A. Part would be an immediate effect. Long-term success at GA 2012 would have impact well beyond the immigration issues. Ideally people will learn how to build community partnerships for justice issues most relevant in their communities and develop the capacity in their home congregations to do this work.

Q. How do we tie together social justice work and theology?

A. It's the job of all of us, especially religious professionals, to bring it beyond the "because I said so." We have a long historical grounding and theological tradition in love and promoting religious value.

Q. How do we empower the passion of the people around immigration?

A. Really comes down to local folks in Arizona. The Administration is working to be in partnership with local UUs and local organizations, but General Assembly 2012 is still 18 months away and a lot can and will (hopefully) change.

Q. What's the process for including local and district congregations in Public Witness decision-making?

A. There are many established relationships in Phoenix – with folks from local congregations, district staff and the hundreds of UUs who were present during the July 29th Day of Non-Compliance. The key to effective Public Witness in 2012 will be to keep lines of communication open with our established partnerships – internal and external. Clearly the UUA staff in the Multicultural Growth and Witness staff group responsible for Witness Ministries will collaborate early on for Phoenix, because it would be a folly not to do so.

Q. How do we get people to come to General Assembly 2012?

A. There are people for whom a typical GA just isn't their thing but we hope that others beyond the usual GA attendees will be excited for a Justice GA – and we hope that those who are love GA and have attended many Assemblies over the years will be extra excited for a Justice GA and seeing it done “beyond business as usual.”

Conference call with President Morales ends; Eva Marx and Jackie Shanti remain on the phone.

Visioning for GA 2012

- Create a powerful visual image we could create so people could see and feel what the cost of deportation is like shoes, backpacks, water bottles, *ofrendas* (altars dedicated to those who have died crossing)
- A Justice GA is grounded theologically; be multigenerational
- It's in our public statements
- Open our doors to the public, doing more in the community
- Language – Spanish in workshops/hymns/worship
- Spiritual grounding, the importance of looking at social justice as a long arc
- Need to put the faces on the people
- Not just an Arizona issue
- Opportunities for reflections from the actions we take
- De-cram the grid – space and pace of GA slowed down and spread out
- ”See one, do one, teach one”
- How to involve smaller congregations and empower them?
- See the complexity of the issues
- What would be the first image you'd want others to see when they step off the plane?
 - A banner in the airport
 - Series of banners quoting UU ministers and UU theology

Next Steps

- a. Continuing the conversation

- b. Feel much more positive about a Justice GA being about justice, the GAPC's listening has really allayed our concerns
- c. Excited for the next six months, local folks are ready to be active at GA 2011
- d. GA 2012 is about social justice in our faith and how we do it
- e. Immigration as a primary focus
- f. Gratitude expressed toward the GAPC for clarifying the process and the intentionality of the meeting
- g. Welcoming people to Arizona
- h. Transformational focus for GA
- i. The ways we do Social Justice
- j. Be outside of our space
- k. Not necessarily content, but the process is what will make a successful GA
- l. Not just an event, but an entire process

Closing Reflection and Parting of Ways – with gratitude to the members of Arizona congregations and the PSWD board and staff who joined the GAPC for this enriching gathering.

Friday, January 7, 2011 2:15 until 5:30 PM

Attending: Lynda Shannon, Chair, Barb Atlas, Vice Chair Programs & Services, Tim Murphy, Vice Chair Plenary/Worship & Celebrations, Bart Frost, Secretary, Beth McGregor, Immediate Past Chair, Joan Benziger, Ginger Brown, Melodie Feather and the Rev. Walt Wieder; Kellie Walker, GA Music Coordinator for GA 2011 and 2012; Mary Alm, TJ District Coordinator for GA 2011 and Jan Sneegas, Director of General Assembly and Conference Services for the UUA

1. Consent Agenda voted

- September minutes approved
- Revised budget approved
- Report from Offsite Voting Task Force
- Report from the October 15-18 Board meeting

2. Planning Teams Meet Separately

3. Report out from Plenary and Worship Planning Team – Tim Murphy

- Sunday morning: Worship Coordinator is Julie Shaw; 1st Con call is Jan 14th
- Synergy: Worship Coordinator is Tandi Rogers; has begun planning, has sent in a proposed budget and a second call has been scheduled.
- Service of the Living Tradition: Worship Coordinator is Julie Shaw; will be including some new elements in the service this year.
- Opening Celebration: John Buehrens will be Worship Leader, Ginger Brown is Worship Coordinator, Beth McGregor will be GAPC Liaison. Will feature a TJ Choir assembled by John Herrick and Donna Fisher. Dan Broner will be helping with music.
- Other Worships

- Leslie Takahashi-Morris is Friday Morning WC
- Vanessa Southern is the Saturday Morning WC
- Copyrights and Permissions
 - Legal Responsibilities
 - ASCAP
- House Manager
 - Marlene Brown will be Usher Coordinator and is already hard at work
 - Ambiance contact to be established shortly after meeting
 - Will be going to Charlotte to scout Plenary Hall space
- Tech Liaisons
 - Diana Allen and Mark Gibbons

4. Report out from Programs and Services Planning Team – Barb Atlas

- Chaplains
 - Work has begun, 13 names presented (via e-mail from Kim H)
- Youth Caucus
 - Staff Application deadline is Jan 15
- Financial Aid Report
 - Criteria chosen
- Evening Entertainment
 - Three films
 - Theatrical Presentation (Goddess Diaries)
 - Pete Leary
 - Dance
- Orientation is disappearing, becoming First-Timers Welcome to Charlotte
 - Lynda with Mary and Carolyn and a member of CSW
- Program Selection
 - One slot for Lynda to facilitate a meeting like the morning gathering with Arizona leaders
- Housekeeping

Saturday, January 8, 2011 9 AM until 5:30 PM

Attending: Lynda Shannon, Chair, Barb Atlas, Vice Chair Programs & Services, Tim Murphy, Vice Chair Plenary/Worship & Celebrations, Bart Frost, Secretary, Beth McGregor, Immediate Past Chair, Joan Benziger, Ginger Brown, Melodie Feather and the Rev. Walt Wieder; Kellie Walker, GA Music Coordinator for GA 2011 and 2012 (before lunch only); Mary Alm, TJ District Coordinator for GA 2011 and Jan Sneegas, Director of General Assembly and Conference Services for the UUA

1. Tour of the Convention Center

2. Debrief Tour of Convention Center

- Possibly using the large ballroom as a plenary space
- Scooter concerns
- A lot of food

-Accessibility of the bathrooms is a concern

3. Breakout into Planning Teams

4. Report-out from Plenary/Worship & Celebrations - Tim Murphy

- Review of terms used in regards to Event Liaison and Worship Coordinator
- Opening
 - Elements established, work is progressing
- Closing
 - Vision, trying to move the installation into plenary since closing is only 45 minutes
 - Changeover from closing plenary into worship through music
- Script Management and Captioning
- AR/AO/MC Script review
 - Team will be put together
- CSW Task Force to Revisit AIW Process
 - GAPC concerns about the AIWs process were voiced at the September meeting with David May on the phone; our understanding was there would be a diverse group convened to do a full review and gather feedback from all points of view;
 - A team (David May and ?) reviewed AIW process and made some minor changes;
 - Reviewed previous agreements regarding volunteers in Plenary Hall related to the CSW Process
- Worship Coordinator Call
 - By end of the month
- Music Leaders Call
 - Went very well, encouraged members to be pro-active

5. District Coordinator's Report – Mary Alm

- Extensive travels with the chalice → was at a minister's installation in coastal NC area, will be at Beaufort's new building's dedication
- Accessibility meeting with Jan and Patti went well
- Local Committee has been appointed
- Service Project Proposal from TJD:
 - Mecklenburg Ministries Youth Camp “In Our Own Backyard”
 - The Youth Camp takes 18-20 rising 9th and 10th graders crossing race and class experiences to:
 - Visit and worship in other faith traditions
 - Challenge poverty
 - Plan interfaith worships
 - The gift from Sunday Morning Worship would help maintain the youth camp, “endow” it for the future (not an actual endowment though!)
 - There has been discussion about branching it out to other cities

nationwide

- Has really positively affect local youth, including UU youth
- MM would like to have a hand's on project and take the Youth Caucus on a half-day project: discussion brought out the following caveats:
 - Not sure about numbers that they'd be able to accommodate
 - Youth Caucus needs to be contacted, permissions and involvement of youth sponsors. Would this be an educational program?
 - Would be just for GA Youth?
- Both Charlotte congregations support "In Our Own Backyard" as this year's Service Project and jointly propose its adoption to the GAPC.
- Volunteer Priority Criteria were discussed and will be finalized

6. Director of GACS Report –Jan Sneegas

- Jan went to Charlotte with Patti, Melissa, Shawna, and another Meet Green trainee, and Mary
 - Hotel rates are great
 - The CC has challenges, including the escalators leading to the plenary space.
 - Greening will be good
- Early income is about average
- Church Mutual has sponsored a mobile app called "Event Moby"
- Charlotte's cultural value has increased exponentially with new museums and restaurants within a block of the Convention Center, rated number one Cultural Destination by American Airlines magazine
- Louisville in 2013
 - Signed with the Marriott and the Convention Center
- Providence (2014) is having a labor dispute at the Westin; the UUA will not be signing any contracts with them until it is resolved.
- West Coast site visit needs to be scheduled for 2015 and 2018
- GA Blog needs to get input and content from many sources, especially GAPC
- Phoenix 2012
 - Budget discussion – there is no clear picture of what GA 2012 will be like so a preliminary budget at this point is pure conjecture; imagine Ft. Lauderdale numbers as a starting point.

7. GA 2011 Issues - Barb Atlas chairing

- Security Concerns
 - Will the Imam bring his own people/team?
 - Discuss with UUSC?
 - Beth will be liaison to Imam's program, check with Dea on security
 - Mary to interface with the local police in regards to curfews and safety measures
- Book Signings

- UUA Bookstore is responsible for sales and setting up tables
- Event Liaisons need to be in communication with their Event Leaders about book signings
- 50th Anniversary Logistics
 - Cake or cupcakes at aisles in the Exhibit Hall to manage flow
 - Gab-z-ebo video recording booth in the 50th Anniversary booth
 - Expenses and support – need final numbers from Lynda
- Suggestion that the PC host a Reception for former PC members
 - Post-SoLT
- PC Suite is at the Omni this year
- 2012 meeting – 10:15 in CC
- Monitoring and Evaluation

8. PC and UUniverse

Eva Marx and Jackie Shanti joined the GAPC by telephone on Saturday afternoon. This was not so much a conversation among members of the GAPC as a recap of Friday night's Deep Chair conversation which lifted up some tender and troubling concerns about the GAPC's relationships with other groups, especially the Board. Key concerns were:

1. The process and final product of **the Business Resolution on GA 2012**;
2. **The appointment of the GA 2012 Advisory Group** and its charge and first meeting with the Board and not the GAPC. This is not our understanding of what was agreed to at GAMAP.
3. The **failure of the hoped for collaborative process to review AIWs** and report back to the Board. The GAPC's concerns about the AIW process were essentially left out of the interim report presented by the Chair of the CSW at the November Board Meeting;
4. The **use of fear based language in connection with GA 2012** – especially concerning the Offsite Delegate Voting project, which the GAPC supports for reasons of economic accessibility.
5. A reflection that the **Statement of Purpose adopted by GAMAP no longer seems right**, especially following the most excellent conversation of Friday morning with the AZ folks.

The sense of the GAPC is that there has been inadequate communication with the UUA Board and the Moderator that has contributed to the GAPC's feeling unsure about mutual trust. Clarification and shared understanding of our respective roles in planning GA is needed. To address this, the GAPC will be sending representatives to all Board meetings and hopes to meet with the Board immediately after the close of GA 2011 to begin to work to improve the relational aspects of our shared work, dreams and vision.

- Relationship with constituency groups has been nurtured for several years through asking for script review and in working on building a strong Right Relationship Team at each GA since 2006.
- GAPC Relationship with CSW – needs attention from the CSW Liaison; the

interim report on the AIW process review did not address main GAPC concern about the inflexibility of the Grid that is a real problem for GA 2012. There remains a lack of clarity regarding responsibility for ushers at the mics during debate.

-GAPC and Staff – this is a highlight of continual improvement in relationship building within the UUA. The PDG is working very well to vet and recommend programs.

-GAPC and Host District – began positively with reception in Charlotte last January and improved greatly at this meeting with the Arizona leaders. We need to identify time and space for continuing the Arizona conversation at GA 2011.

9. GAPC Functioning

-Information flow/cooperation

-Readdressing communication policy

-Adopting silence as consent (e-mail only), Bart to rewrite communication policy for consideration

-Care in all e-mail responses - especially with long cc lists

-Event Liaison to Imam (Beth)

-Integrating New Members in September

-Facilitator?

-Outside? Lynda? Former Members?

-GA Blog – assignments taken by members of the GAPC

-Submit 350 words ASAP to Don

-In April we will readdress gaps on the GA Blog

-Final discretion is the staff's

Sunday, January 9, 2011 9 AM until Noon

Attending: Lynda Shannon, Chair, Barb Atlas, Vice Chair Programs & Services, Tim Murphy, Vice Chair Plenary/Worship & Celebrations, Bart Frost, Secretary, Beth McGregor, Immediate Past Chair, Joan Benziger, Ginger Brown, Melodie Feather and the Rev. Walt Wieder; Mary Alm, TJ District Coordinator for GA 2011 and Jan Sneegas, Director of General Assembly and Conference Services for the UUA

1. Worship led by Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder

2. Check-in with one another/check out

3. Move and Vote Motions

4. Review and assign (as needed) Tasks to be completed

5. Brainstorm Items for April's Agenda

-Submit to Lynda no later than March 21st

6. Adjourn

Motion 1: Report of the Offsite Delegate Planning Team

The General Assembly Planning Committee has received the report of the Offsite Delegate Planning Team with gratitude for the substantial work involved and with the understanding that any offsite delegate plan is designed to promote economic accessibility to General Assembly in the long run and to be economically sustainable within the operating budget.

Motion 2: Approval of Service Project

The General Assembly Planning Committee approves the choice of Service Project for General Assembly 2011 by the Charlotte congregations – namely: endowing the youth camp (“In Our Own Backyard”) and the Youth Council of Mecklenburg Ministries.

Motion 3: Funding for Attendance of the ARE Conference

Moved to supply the funding for Bart Frost to attend the ARE Conference in Ft. Myers, Florida in March.

Motion 4: Support for the A/V Kiosk at General Assembly 2011

Moved to allocate up to \$10,000 in support from the General Assembly budget for contracting an AV company to provide a digital recording booth for the 50th Anniversary Exhibit Hall.

Motion 5: Statement of Purpose Adopted at GAMAP 9/14/10

After further reflection, our gathering with Arizona congregational leaders, and the events of Tucson, the General Assembly Planning Committee moves that the language adopted by participants of GAMAP on September 14, 2010 be modified to read “*We gather as a religious community, with a focus on public witness, social action, and reflection together centered on our religiously grounded call to act for justice.*”

Accepted unanimously. Action: Lynda to communicate to the Administration and the Board.

Action: Lynda to communicate to the Administration and the Board.

Accepted unanimously.