

Moderator's Report

April 1, 2014

Jim Key
UUA Moderator
Chief Governance Officer

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Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

My attention since the last board meeting has been primarily focused on five major activities: planning for GA General Sessions, assessing Restorative Justice processes, reviewing and understanding the Business Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment, collaborating with senior staff on Ends Interpretations, and coordinating with the Living Legacy Project on arrangements for a 2015 Board meeting in Alabama.

GA General Sessions – Understanding that there will be 12.5 hours available for general sessions compared with 23 in 2013, I have been working with Donna Harrison and others to ensure our business can be conducted within that time. We have communicated with traditional presenters to keep their presentations short, demonstrate how they link to our Ends and the GA Love Reaches Out theme, and engage the delegates with questions they might want to reflect on. (Addendum 1)

The Board will be asked to approve the Business Agenda at the April meeting.

Restorative Justice – Following conversations I had with complainants last year about clergy misconduct, I have had several conversations with the MFC, “after pastors”, staff, Safety Net representatives, and other professionals to understand our current process for handling complaints. Meetings are scheduled in April to further our understanding, which I hope will lead to a process that will provide a more compassionate hearing for both the complainant and the accused.

Natty Averett will update the Board at the April meeting.

Business Resolution – The proposed business resolution on fossil fuel divestment has been placed on the Tentative Agenda and will be discussed at our April board meeting.

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I have invited the chairs of the Investment and Socially Responsible Investment committees to participate as well as those with a range of views to better inform the board.

Ends Interpretation – A team established by the board (Donna Harrison, Rob Eller-Isaacs, and me) has been meeting with Eric Craymer and senior staff to review the ends interpretation document.

The staff will present the Ends Interpretation at the April Board meeting.

2015 Board Meeting in Alabama – I have been working with the [Living Legacy Project](#) (LLP) to establish specific dates for our Spring board meeting in 2015. As discussed at our last board meeting, we will be meeting in Alabama to honor and remember the UUA Board's recess of their meeting in 1965 to reconvene in Selma at the [Edmundite Mission](#) in solidarity with the Voting Rights march from Selma to Montgomery.

The current expectation of LLP is to welcome people to Birmingham Thursday afternoon, March 5, 2015, and to have programming that evening, followed by a full day of programs in Birmingham on Friday, March 6. It is likely that Saturday, March 7, will include programs in Birmingham as well as in and around Selma, with a return to Birmingham Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon we expect the gathered Unitarian Universalists to take part in the march from Brown Chapel across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

I will ask a trustee to work with the LLP and Convention Planning Staff to coordinate our Board meeting with 50th Anniversary events.

Other activities - Concurrently with the activities noted above, I have been engaged with many stakeholders about the work group initiatives of the Board, which include GA Proposal Planning, Policy Review, Linkage, Reviewing Committees, Inclusion and Empowerment, and Emerging Congregations and Communities.

These initiatives will be updated at the April Board meeting by the assigned conveners.

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Meetings with congregations

- Fourth Universalist Society of New York, delivered homily
- One Island Family, Key West, delivered homily
- Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, attended installation of Rev. Abhi Janamanchi
- The Unitarian Church in Charleston, delivered homily
- UU Fellowship of the Peninsula, Newport News, delivered homily
- First Parish in Concord, conducted town hall meeting and delivered homily

Meetings with committees and organizations

- Beacon Benediction, Boston, attended
- UUA Staff Chapel, Boston, delivered homily
- Western Florida Cluster, Clearwater, delivered homily
- Tidewater Cluster, Newport News, delivered keynote and workshop
- Monthly meetings of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees

Addendum 1

Dear (Committee Chair Name) -

I am writing to you to let you know about some changes that I am making in how we manage time in the General Sessions (Plenary) at General Assembly. In response to the feedback from delegates, we are cutting back significantly the time delegates will spend in General Sessions. This reduction will allow more time for programming, networking, worship, and fellowship...what most delegates and others to General assembly cherish the most. In addition, as part of its work to transform the governance of our association, the Board is working to change the nature of the conversations that we have at GA and focus more of our time together on the issues and questions that have the most impact for our association and our faith going forward. Moreover, after updating the Ends of the Association last year, the Board is working to assure that delegates will continually deepen their understanding of how the work done by various organizations within the UUA system leads to the achievement of the Global Ends (see attached.)

These changes have some practical implications for the reports that are presented to the delegates during the General Sessions at Providence GA. This year we have 12 hours of General Session time, down from 23 hours in 2013. This is a significant decrease, and the Board and I have determined that, other than the reports required

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by our bylaws, no organization will be guaranteed time in the General Session to deliver a report. We are asking all organizations who would like to present a report to the delegates to submit a proposal to the Board by March 14. We will review all proposals relative to the General Session time available and respond by March 31. All reports that are required by our Bylaws will be granted General Session time, although it may not be as long as has been the practice in previous years. For other proposed reports, priority will be given to reports that support the following criteria: reports that help delegates develop a robust understanding of how the work of the proposing organization supports achievement of the UUA Global Ends; reports that pose significant questions or issues that the delegates should consider in future gatherings; and reports that clearly link to the theme of this GA, which is "Love Reaches Out." Additionally, we encourage all organizations to have only one person present their report and limit it to 250 words.

As you prepare the proposal please provide the following information:

- Describe the organization.
- Who will speak for the organization?
- Is your report required by the UUA Bylaws?
- What is the role your organization plays in helping the Association achieve the Ends (attached)?
- How will your presentation tie to the theme of Love Reaches Out?
- What important questions or issues will be posed by your presentation for the delegates to consider?
- Why is it important that you make a presentation at General Assembly? Are there other ways that this information could be provided to those who are interested?

Please send your responses to Stephanie Maron at scarey@uua.org. Stephanie is the administrative support for the UUA Board. If you have any questions, you may direct them to our vice moderator, Donna Harrison (dharrison@uua.org) or me at jkey@uua.org.

Also attached are two documents that will detail the requirements for all speakers relative to logistics and script deadlines. These requirements are essential for our ARAOMC review and closed captioning preparation.

I am looking forward to hearing back from you! We are committed to offering the delegates a different and faster paced general sessions than in the past and general sessions that are assessable and inclusive by and to all.

James C. Key (Jim), Moderator
and Chief Governance Officer
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