



## Report of the Commission on Social Witness February 2016

### Dear Congregational Members, Leaders and Delegates to GA 2016:

Between the 2015 and 2016 General Assemblies of the UUA, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) solicited proposals for new congregational study action issues that delegates could consider at the 2016 GA for four years of study and action. Congregations submitted six proposals, which the CSW reviewed to ensure they met the criteria for consideration. The CSW recommended that proposers adapt one and submit one as a GA session. They rejected one as too similar to a recent CSAI. The CSW accepted the adapted proposal plus the remaining three (total of four) for inclusion in the congregational poll.

Of the congregations certified to vote in the congregational poll, 57% voted “Yes,” “No,” or “Abstain” on one or more of the issues. As a result of the poll, the CSW submitted the following four issues for inclusion in the final agenda, each of which received a majority of Yes votes: Climate Change and Environmental Justice, A National Conversation on Race, Ending Gun Violence in America, and the Corruption of Our Democracy.

The CSW solicited and reviewed comments on the current CSAI: Escalating Inequality. Additional information on Escalating Inequality can be found at <http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality>.

Commissioners also revised information on the UUA web site that explains the CSAI process and judged submissions for the Social Witness Sermon Contest that the CSW co-sponsors with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA).

The main CSW activities at the GA 2016 are

- A mini-assembly on the four proposed congregational study action issues for 2016-2020;
- Debate and Vote on adopting a new congregational study action issue (CSAI) for 2016-2020;
- Proposing, collecting signatures, and voting on Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs);
- Mini-assemblies to propose amendments to Proposed AIWs;
- Workshops on implementation of the Statement of Conscience “Reproductive Justice” and the Congregational Study/Action Issue on “Escalating Inequality”;
- A hearing on the newly selected CSAI;
- A worship service that features the social witness sermon contest winner; and
- Debate and Vote on adopting Actions of Immediate Witness
- Session in collaboration with UUA Board, UUA staff, and GA planning committee considering alternative ways to do social witness at GA

Susan F. Goekler, Chair  
Commission on Social Witness

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