



Report of the Commission on Social Witness March, 2017

Dear Congregational Members, Leaders and Delegates to GA 2017:

Between the 2016 and 2017 General Assemblies of the UUA, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) drafted a statement of conscience on Escalating Inequality, solicited comments on the draft, and revised the draft based on the comments received. The revised statement is included in the business agenda for the 2017 GA. The CSW also solicited comments on the congregational study action issue selected in 2016 on The Corruption of Our Democracy. You can find additional information on Escalating Inequality at www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality and on Corruption of Democracy at www.uua.org/statements/current/corruption-of-our-democracy.

Of the congregations certified to vote in the congregational poll, 522 of the 843 certified congregations (62%) participated in voting to admit a Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Escalating Inequality to the business agenda for consideration at the 2017 General Assembly. Of those, 415 (49% of all certified congregations) voted Yes, 5 (1%) voted No, and 102 (12%) voted to abstain. This meets the UUA Bylaws requirement that at least 25% of certified congregations participate in the poll.

Commissioners also revised information on the UUA web site, judged submissions for the Social Witness Sermon Contest that the CSW co-sponsors with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), and created an online chat about re-envisioning how we engage in social witness as an Association (<http://www.uua.org/statements/process/visioning-forum>).

The main CSW activities at the GA 2017 are

- A mini-assembly on the proposed Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality;
- Debate and vote on adopting a Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality;
- A workshop on the Congregational Study/Action Issues of the Corruption of our Democracy;
- A training on social justice activism that builds on the pre-conference workshop;
- Creating a time and space for social justice activists to meet with others who are like-minded and share resources, action opportunities, and consider joint actions; and
- A worship service that features the social witness sermon contest winner.

Susan F. Goekler, Chair
Commission on Social Witness

**Mr. Richard Bock, Rev. Caitlin Cotter, Dr. Susan Goekler,
Rev. Christina Sillari and Ms. Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers**