

Commission on Appraisal - Minutes - March 31 - April 3

Present: Ginger Abraham, Nathan Hollister, Katie Romano Griffin, Kathleen Henry, Xolani Kacela, Peter Kandis

Thursday, March 31

The commissioners arrived in Philadelphia, ate dinner together and had opening centering and check in.

Friday, April 1

Morning Session - The commission opened with a centering and planned the workshop time with Finding OUR Way Home (FOWH).

Workshop with FOWH

The workshop was opened with singing led by musicians from FOWH, Then the commissioners introduced themselves to the group and briefly explained our mission. Katie led the group in a movement exercise. We presented each table with three questions to answer.

After time for discussion, a spokesperson from each table had an opportunity to share their responses. The commissioners took notes and recorded the responses

The commission traveled with FOWH to First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia where the sharing of responses continued during lunch.

We participated in a ritual with FOWH honoring Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and returned to the hotel.

Afternoon Session - The commission had a debriefing session on the workshop with FOWH with everyone agreeing that it was a valuable experience to support our work. We decided that it would be helpful to send a thank you note to FOWH with a Google form to collect more responses in writing.

There was a discussion of the role of the Commission on Appraisal within the UUA, our purpose and mission, and a review of the recent history of the Commission. We also discussed the value of the Commission to the faith.

Elevator Speech: The Commission on Appraisal's mission is to evaluate the ministry of the faith and make recommendations for its betterment.

Evening session: The commission set goals and finalized agenda for the rest of the weekend. We looked at the Preliminary Report and commissioners agreed on which sections each one would focus on for editing.

Process observation: Everyone agreed that they felt they had had opportunities to share their ideas and that we listened well to each other and accomplished a lot. One ARAO observation was about using the term “striving for excellence” and the speaker’s intent was explained.

Saturday, April 2.

Morning session - The commission opened with a centering exercise. Our work focused on making a timeline and scope and sequence for completing our report.

Afternoon session - This was a work/writing session with commissioners working on a variety of tasks including writing a thank you note to FOWH, creating the Google form for collecting more information and beginning work on editing of assigned sections of the Preliminary Report.

Process observation: Everyone felt that this was a good meeting with a lot accomplished in a short time. One ARAO observation was about expecting people at meetings to take out their phones to participate in a survey, pointing out that not everyone present may be able to have a cell phone with Internet access. It was agreed that printed copies of surveys would be available also for those who preferred to answer in this way.

Sunday, April 3

Business meeting

The commission came to the consensus that our present size of 6 members is working well while realizing that the by-laws call for 9 members. We will be in conversation with the Board about possible changes to the by-laws relating to the size of the commission.

Remember to send in expenses to Stephanie Maron.

Motion to adjourn: Katie Romano Griffin

Second: Peter Kandis