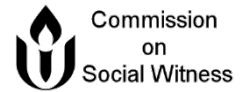


CSW Alert!



ALL ARE CALLED • KANSAS CITY 2018 Thursday, June 21, 2018

Welcome to GA 2018! Hold on to this Summary CSW (Commission on Social Witness) Alert. It's your first of four daily guides to our social witness work at GA. As delegates of member congregations, it's up to you to participate in the workshops and general sessions. There is much at stake including selecting the new Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2018-2022, attending programs on the active Congregational Study/Action Issue on The Corruption of Democracy and recently adopted Statement of Conscience on Escalating Economic Inequity, and considering Actions of Immediate Witness. Plan to participate fully, and ask about what you don't understand. You can access CSW members at Booth 610 in the Exhibit Hall or at socialwitness@uua.org or up front, on the right, during the general sessions that include CSW business. Let's bear social witness together!

How to navigate our social witness process at GA

Check your GA Agenda to find additional information on the social witness processes named below. At the CSW booth you'll find a copy of the Delegates' Guide to Social Witness.

Let's first clear up that ornery alphabet soup:

CSAI = Congregational Study Action Issue

SOC = Statement of Conscience

AIW = Action of Immediate Witness

CSW = Commission on Social Witness

The CSAI emerges first in a congregation and moves through a process of congregational and GA selection every two years. An SOC is drafted by the CSW in the third year and presented to congregations and delegates for comments, proposed amendments, and final approval.

Delegates will select a new CSAI at General Session IV on Friday starting at 1:30 p.m. There is no vote on a new Statement of Conscience this year.

You also will have the opportunity at this GA to speak out on specific issues demanding our immediate attention through AIWs. You draft them. You propose them (preference is given to group-originated proposals). Delegates support them by signing sponsors' petitions. At the Saturday morning General Session, delegates will hear from the proposers of up to 6 AIWs and vote to admit up to 3 to the GA agenda. At the Sunday afternoon General Session, delegates debate and vote on whether they are adopted and carry the authority of this GA.

Each CSW Alert will be organized according to what's happening most immediately for the Proposed CSAIs, Active CSAI, and AIW process. Related events will be highlighted.

Questions? Contact socialwitness@uua.org

Selection of New CSAI for 2018-2022

Event 1 -- Mini-Assembly on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2018-2022, Thursday, 4:30 – 5:30 pm (Central time), **Room 2215A**. Hear Sponsors for 2 Proposed CSAIs present their proposals in 2 minutes each and answer questions. Help them hone their presentations for Friday's afternoon General Session that will determine which of the Proposed CSAIs will be selected for 4 years of congregational focus and formation and potential adoption as a UUA Statement of Conscience. [Available for off-site delegates]

Proposed Congregational Study Action Issues (full descriptions start on page 73):

CSAI-1: Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy: Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone's chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is also the nation's most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth and all living things.

CSAI-2: Dismantling Intersectional Oppression: Systemic injustices intersect across environment, race, gender, animal welfare, and all other forms of oppression. Identifying the underlying mechanisms which enable systemic and intersecting injustices enables us to mitigate their harm. Intersectional justice calls us to work together across oppressions and become a movement of movements.

Criteria for a CSAI (from the Proposer's Guide):

1. An issue complex enough to merit three years of study and action by congregations and districts before a position on the matter is adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and after adoption, a fourth year of focused implementation.
2. An issue for which there is a strong "yes" to questions of grounding, fit, and opportunity:
 - a. *Grounding:* Does Unitarian Universalist (UU) theology and practice resonate with the issue historically, ethically, and spiritually?
 - b. *Fit:* Do our member congregations have the resources and people to take meaningful action on this issue?
 - c. *Opportunity:* Do circumstances make it likely that our member congregations would become respected participants in public dialogue on this issue?
3. An issue that lends itself to study and action that would enable UUs to put our Principles into practice.
4. An issue that lends itself practically to congregational and/or district study and action projects.
5. An issue that the UUA has not recently adopted a position on through a General Resolution. (before 1996) or a Statement of Conscience (after 1996), unless further study and action would substantially enhance or change the UUA's position.
6. An issue that is not so urgent that it would be appropriate for immediate advocacy through an Action of Immediate Witness at the next General Assembly (GA).

Statements of Conscience resulting from Previous CSAIs:

2017	Escalating Economic Inequity	2005	Criminal Justice and Prison Reform
2015	Reproductive Justice	2004	Civil Liberties
2013	Immigration as a Moral Issue	2003	Economic Globalization
2011	Ethical Eating & Environmental Justice	2002	Alternatives to the "War on Drugs"
2010	Creating Peace	2001	Responsible Consumption
2007	Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society	2000	Economic Injustice, Poverty & Racism
2006	Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change	1999	Beyond Religious Tolerance

Event 2 – Vote to Select One CSAI, Friday General Session IV, 1:30 p.m. After listening to advocates for each proposed CSAI, delegates select one issue for study and action within their congregations as part of a larger denominational movement for the next four years. [Available for off-site delegates.]

Event 3 -- Hearing on Newly Selected CSAI, Saturday 3:00 p.m., Convention Center 2102A. This is an opportunity to share ideas and resources that might help people in congregations engage with the newly selected issue! The hearing will help the UUA staff create a resource guide for the new issue. [Not available for off-site delegates, but they may submit ideas to socialwitness@uua.org.]

Active CSAI—The Corruption of Democracy—2016-2020

Event 1 – Is Real Democracy Possible?, Friday 11:45 a.m., Room 2012A. *Daring Democracy* co-author Adam Eichen and Jobs with Justice Civic Engagement Director Ashli Bolden (leader in Movement for Black Lives) explore movements challenging white supremacy and corporate greed. UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) “The Corruption of Our Democracy” Study Guide co-author Elias Ortega-Aponte facilitates discussion on how UUs can build power to support just democratic practices. [Not available for off-site delegates, but might be taped for later access.]

Event 2 -- Worship featuring Social Justice Sermon Contest Winner, Thursday 3:00 p.m., CC 2012A. The sermon “Why the Right Get it Wrong and the Left Just Doesn’t Get It” explores issues with how we practice democracy. [Not available for off-site delegates.]

Adopted Statement of Conscience – Escalating economic Inequity – 2014-2018

Event 1 – Implementing SOC on Escalating Economic Inequity, Thursday 1:30 p.m., Room 2102A. How are Unitarian Universalist congregations implementing the Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Escalating Inequality? Join the CSW and representatives from congregations that are doing this type of economic justice work for a lively conversation. Join your voice to share what your congregation is doing. [Not available for off-site delegates, but send what you are doing to socialwitness@uua.org]

AIWs

Deadline 1—Thursday, June 21, 5:00 PM – CSW Booth 610, Exhibit Hall

First, check the CSW booth [or <https://www.uua.org/action/process/planning-aiw-ga>] to determine if anyone else is preparing an AIW on the same topic. We encourage collaboration. To submit a proposed AIW, pick up the required cover sheet [online also] and petition form for signatures at the CSW booth and draft your statement. Submit a copy of the AIW at the booth by the Thursday deadline. Then begin to collect delegate signatures. [Off-site delegates: submit as word document to socialwitness@uua.org.]

Deadline 2—Friday, June 22, 5:00 PM—Volunteer Office 2204

Submit the AIW forms with the required delegate signatures to the CSW at the GA Volunteer Office 2204 by the Friday deadline. Proposed AIWs must be submitted by this deadline to be considered. [Off site delegates may sign petitions, but paper signature forms must be submitted in person.]

AIW Vote 1—Saturday, June 23, General Session V. Delegates select 3 proposed AIWs to admit to the agenda for consideration on Sunday. [Available to off-site delegates.]

AIW Mini-Assemblies, Saturday June 23, 1:30 pm. These are the only opportunities to suggest changes/propose amendments to the 3 proposed AIWs selected for consideration. [Separate mini-assembly for off-site delegates.]

AIW Vote 2—Sunday, June 24, General Session VII. Delegates vote whether to adopt each of the 3 proposed AIWs. [Available for off-site delegates.]