

Election Campaign Practices Committee (ECPC): Meeting by online/phone conference April 20, 2016, 2 PM Eastern

Participants: Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Chair, Elisabeth (Beth) McGregor, Katherine (KC) Slack; Rob Eller-Isaacs, Secretary of the UUA Board (ex officio on the ECPC)

Candidate Covenanting Session:

Rob and Manish reported on an April 14 meeting with the currently declared presidential candidates, to discuss and make agreements about the conduct of the campaign. They are the Revs. Alison Miller (nominated by the Presidential Nominating Committee), Susan Frederick-Gray (who has been certified as meeting the petition requirements), and Jeanne Pupke (who anticipates being certified shortly and is n active candidate).

The tone of the meeting was positive, and existing UUMA standards and agreements on collegiality provided a basis for the conduct of the campaign. The candidates plan to create a brief covenantal statement, which should be publicly available in May, and also a more detailed procedural plan, which will be developed a little later and may be for internal use only.

Candidate Forums:

The UUA Board of Trustees has approved a motion to support five events at which all candidates appear, in various parts of the country, each with a somewhat different focus. This is in part in response to the fact that new UUA rules setting spending limits for campaigns make financing extensive candidate travel difficult. A committee to plan these events will include three UUA Board members, the candidates or their designated representatives, and the chair of the ECPC. Harlan Limpert will be the staff liaison. UUA Moderator Jim Key will moderate most of the events; Manish will moderate one in the Northeast/New England. The participants began marking out potential available times for the forums. Rob reported satisfaction with Board leadership on this governance matter.

Website:

KC is empowered to activate the Elections section of the UUA website when she is ready; to post general information (including timeline and voting procedures), rules for the Election Forum's use, and links to campaign websites. Harlan has not yet reported back on whether we can have a moderated versus an open forum. Our strong preference is for a moderated version, where KC can view and approve all submissions before they are posted, consulting the other committee members if there is a question. KC will check with Margy Levine Young of the IT staff about this matter.

General Assembly:

The ECPC will host a Candidate Forum at GA on Saturday, June 25, moderated by Manish. In addition, Manish will confer with Moderator Jim Key about the possibility of scheduling a brief session of delegate education on voting procedures, including absentee voting, during a general session at GA. The ECPC will come up with a proposal for that

informational piece, possibly including PowerPoint slide(s). Beth will check with the GA Planning Committee on deadlines for any slides or scripts.

The UUA had reserved only two Exhibit Hall booths for presidential campaigns. A third has been added, and the candidates agreed on an option for equitable placement in the hall.

ECPC members will be available throughout GA to deal with any issues that may arise, and Manish will also check in with the candidates after GA about their experience there.

Next Meeting:

Online/phone conference Thursday, May 26, 2016, 2 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted.

Elisabeth McGregor