



Budget Narrative – General Assembly 2020, Providence RI

Rather than being constrained by budgeting to a bottom line of zero, the GAPC, with the agreement of the Administration is proposing a 2020 budget with a more transparent and realistic accounting of where we anticipate General Assembly to wind up financially. Additionally, we are working collaboratively on a 3-year projected budget with the same focus.

The budget for next year has undergone many iterations. The numbers expressed herein are derived from collective analysis by many parties. As it stands, we project a \$175,000 (+/-) surplus in Providence, assuming two things: (1) that we reach on-site attendance of 4,400 and (2) that we can fund the one-time expense for GACS consultancy from the UUA's general funds. The GAPC and Administration mutually support this request.

Being mindful of our \$300,000 (+/-) deficit in Spokane, the GAPC and Administration continues to analyze how the gathering will perform over a 5-year arc and whether GA can be self-sustaining going forward. Let's recall the historical context that ultimately led to GA operating at a deficit. It includes a significant portion of GA reserve funds being allocated at the discretion of the Board and Administration in 2016 and 2017. The GAPC and Administration have discussed this shared pain point and committed to work collaboratively and equitably in repaying the deficit and re-building the GA reserve fund. Specifically, there is agreement that repayment of the current deficit be shared between the GA and UUA general funds. In upcoming years where a GA surplus is anticipated, 50% of that surplus shall be directed to deficit repayment and 50% shall be held in the GA reserve fund. This shall continue until total repayment reaches one-half of the deficit incurred in Spokane in 2019. Thereafter, 100% of any net income from GA will be held in the GA reserve until the reserve reaches \$300,000.

By maintaining a reserve of \$300,000, it is anticipated that GA might return to a break-even or better budget. When the reserve exceeds \$300,000, the GAPC, Administration and Board will collaborate on the best use of excess funds, with preference being scholarships and programming.

Below are the proposed registration rates for 2020 as well as an addendum requesting Board approval of these rates immediately so that registration can open on ~~September 15, 2019~~, November 1, 2019.

2020 Proposed Registration Rates

Early Registration	\$400 each
November 1, 2019 – March 15, 2020	
General Registration	\$500 each
March 16, 2020 – April 30, 2020	
On-Site Registration	\$525 each
May 1, 2020 – June 24, 2020	
Reduced Early Registration	\$250 each
October 15, 2019 – March 15, 2019	
Reduced General Registration	\$300 each
March 16, 2020 – April 30, 2020	
On-Site Reduced Registration	\$350 each

May 1, 2020 – June 24, 2020	
One-Day Registration	\$200 each
October 15, 2019 – June 28, 2020	
Off-Site Delegates	\$150 each
October 15, 2019 – June 1, 2020	

The budget reflects a commitment to keeping attendance financially affordable for those with accessibility, socio-economic and childcare needs. The reduced off-site delegate rate is an incentive for congregations that don't currently do so to fund delegates at a lesser cost and on-site participate. This will re-engage congregations in the national conversation and potentially attract a more diverse pool of delegates.

Sincerely,
LaTonya

Liaison to the GAPC & Administration

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Proposal

I. Funding Seats for GAPC Meetings

Citing the necessity of a close relationship between the Board and the General Assembly Planning Committee in creating a successful and meaningful General Assembly, the GAPC is proposing that, for the GA2020 planning year and going forward, it will fund one seat from the Office of the Moderator at GAPC meetings. The GAPC also requests a trade of funding for one seat at the Board meetings. This would be a monetary manifestation of our interdependent relationship and gets both parties in the habit of funding the relationship. The GAPC is also open to a trade-off whereby the Board and GAPC respectively fund its travel and expenses of its members and the hosting party provides housing.

Requests

I. Approval of 2020 Registration Rates

This is a request for approval from the Board of Trustees to open General Assembly Registration on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, based on the rates quoted above. Early bird pricing, as described herein, will run from October 15 – March 15 with the option of making installment payments.

II. GACS Consultants' Fee & Benefits

This is a request for approval to pay the 12-month consultancy fee and benefits for Jan Sneegas from the UUA general fund.