

Recommendation for 2022 General Assembly Site

A site visit for GA 2022, was conducted by Debra Gray Boyd (Planning Committee Member), Jan Sneegas (Director, General Assembly and Conference Services), and Don Plante (GACS Meeting Planner). The team visited Portland, Oregon after signing Milwaukee for 2021 and Pittsburgh for 2023, to determine if Portland would be an appropriate site for 2022 which would qualify the UUA to maximum benefits from the Three City Collective (see attached example; anticipated room nights would be closer to 6,400 each year). **The GA Planning Committee recommends the 2022 General Assembly be held in Portland, Oregon.**

General

Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses” is located on the banks of the Willamette River, about a 30 minute drive from the base of Mount Hood, the tallest peak in the Oregon Cascade Mountain Range. Average temperature in June is 74 degrees with 49% humidity. Portland is noted for its progressive urban policies and strong advocacy for the environment. There is no sales tax and no food and beverage tax in Oregon.

Travel

Portland’s airport is a nine-mile drive from the Oregon Convention Center and downtown Portland. Air service is excellent, and includes non-stop service from the East Coast. The MAX light rail runs from the airport to downtown at a cost of \$2.50 with departures every 15 minutes. A day pass for the MAX costs \$5.00. Cab fare from the airport to downtown is approximately \$35 before tip.

Convention Center

The Oregon Convention Center (OCC) is a beautiful building with twin green glass towers located seven minutes from downtown in an area called Lloyd Center. The Convention Center is spacious, with sufficient capacity to handle GA, including both meeting rooms and informal networking. In 2014, the Oregon Convention Center was recertified with the LEED-EB Platinum rating from the [United States Green Building Council](#) (USGBC). This is the highest rating achievable. In 2016, 6,500 solar panels were installed on the roof, providing 25% of the building’s energy.

The OCC is currently undergoing a renovation to the interior which has dramatically improved the accessibility of the building. There is now a passageway on the exhibit hall level that will take you directly to the other side of the building without having to go up, over, and down. The renovation is the largest public contract in Oregon history to be awarded to a minority-owned business as the prime contractor.

The OCC is on the MAX rail with a Convention Center stop. OCC offers state of the art technology, and highly professional staff to support our needs.

Housing

There are two “groups” of hotels in Portland, one on each side of the Willamette River. With the advent of the new Hyatt, it is estimated that almost all of the registrants would be housed in hotels or motels within walking distance of the Convention Center; downtown properties would be reserved for overflow. The downtown properties are within 1 block of the MAX

light rail system. Complimentary MAX passes would be given (2 per room) to attendees staying in the UUA reserved block hotels. All MAX trains and stations are wheelchair accessible.

Our hotel package would tentatively include:

Convention Center Hotels in Lloyd Center

- Hyatt Hotel – 600 room convention center hotel directly across from the OCC, currently under construction and scheduled to open in Spring, 2020
- DoubleTree Lloyd Center - standard convention hotel; has meeting space
- Crown Plaza Convention Center –family owned property, some meeting space
- Eastland Hotel – boutique hotel opened in 2015 directly across from the OCC
- Courtyard by Marriott – attractive business hotel
- Residence Inn by Marriott – full kitchens and suites

Downtown Hotels (Overflow)

- Courtyard by Marriott City Center
- AC Hotel Portland Downtown
- Residence Inn by Marriott Portland Downtown River Place

The proposal we received have guaranteed hotel rates for 2022 ranging from \$182 to \$209 (Hyatt). Portland State Residence Housing is available for \$95 per room (double occupancy).

Food

There is an adequate and growing assortment of restaurants in the Convention Center area (mall food court and fast food options) with most fine dining establishments being in downtown Portland. Prices are reasonable and vegetarian options are abundant. Coffee is everywhere.

General Assembly 2007 and 2015

The 2007 General Assembly boasted the second highest attendance in history, with 5657 Unitarian Universalists present (the largest being Boston in 2003 with 7336). General Assembly returned to Portland in 2015. Attendance was 4502 (fourth largest). Attendees from both GAs raved about the city.

UU Support

Bill Sinkford, previous UUA President (2001 – 2009) is currently the Senior Minister at First Unitarian Portland. The Pacific Northwest District of the Western region has been very supportive at previous meetings in Portland.

Summary

Advantages of Portland

- Destination is attractive to GA constituents with history of strong attendance
- Part of Three City Collective providing a booking incentive with potential revenue of more than \$50,000 (\$1.00 per actualized room night paid by each city, each year 2021,2022, 2023)
- No sales tax or food and beverage tax

- Economical and accessible light rail system
- Sustainable convention center with improved accessibility
- Supportive UU congregations and District/Region
- Professional staff at both the Convention and Visitors Bureau (Travel Portland) and the Oregon Convention Center