

## **General Assembly Liaison Report Report to UUA Board of Trustees October 2016**

The General Assembly Mission of the Association Partnership (GAMAP) met on September 12-13 to review GA 2016 and continue planning for GA 2017. The outcomes of the meeting included a decision on the 2017 theme of “Resist and Rejoice,” and the completion of a draft of the 2017 programming grid.

The GA Planning Committee (GAPC) met Wednesday, September 14-Sunday, September 18 to further review GA 2016 and begin the deep dive planning for 2017. Appendix I of this report contains a summary of the participant feedback from Columbus. The entire report can be found [here](#); please do not distribute widely, as that is the responsibility of the GAPC.

Jolanda Walter, the local GA 2017 coordinator, and Ruth Idakula from the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal (CELSJR) joined the meeting as key partners in the planning for New Orleans. A number of decisions from that meeting include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pre-GA programming is being considered by several entities (similar to Ministry Days)
- Unlike Phoenix, there is no single social issue or specific individual on whom to focus in New Orleans; this will be a “justice-making” GA as a result, with an emphasis on learning more about justice. This will provide significant opportunity for collaboration across teams (LREDA, UUCSJ, UUSC, YYA, etc.)
- The public witness event will include a “second line,” a lamentation/celebration that has deep roots in the New Orleans culture.
- There will be a small increase in the registration fees for GA 2017.
- The actual time saved in General Sessions by *suspending AIWs* is only about 90 minutes; however, workshop programming and the energy that goes into AIWs will be saved!
- It is our intention to test electronic voting in General Sessions in 2017 (rather than show of hands and/or counting paper ballots).
- After a detailed review of General Assembly expenses, it has been determined that some costs (ex: attorney and parliamentarian fees) will be moved out of the GA budget and into the governance budget. This allows for greater transparency and more accurate accounting of cost of

governance. The budget dollars *do not* move from GAPC to the governance budget. In exchange, 100 free registrations will be included in the form of scholarships.

The GA planning committee meets monthly and will meet in person again in Kansas City January 12-15 in Kansas City, MO, the site of the 2018 General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

*Denise Rimes*

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Vice Moderator and Liaison to the GAPC