

General Assembly Planning Committee  
Columbus, OH  
April 14-17, 2016

Rev. Chip Roush, Chair; Debra Boyd, Co-Vice Chair; Ila Klion, Co-Vice Chair; Mary Alm, Secretary; Katherine Allen; Rev. Jenn Gray; Tuli Patel; Samuel Prince; Susan Peck, GA Music Coo; Laura Howe, 2016 Local Coordinator; Jan Sneegas, Director of GA & Conference Services; Jolanda Walter, 2017 Local Coordinator. The Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Education at First UU Church of Columbus, OH, and member of the Worship Arts Team, attended our meeting on Friday afternoon.

Each session began and ended with a reflection and lighting/extinguishing of a (virtual) chalice. Each day ended with commentary from a Process Observer.

**Thursday, Apr. 14**

- Ingathering and check-in

**Friday, Apr. 15**

**Morning**

- Morning in executive session devoted to intra-committee communication concerns; conversation facilitated by the Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister, First UU Church of Columbus

**Afternoon**

- Report from Jan Sneegas—GACS office activities; GA 2016 registration, housing, scholarships; Nina Engo, appointed by the UUA Board to serve as Parliamentarian for General Sessions, will still be paid through our budget; setting up a hearing loop system in the main assembly hall

**Proposal:** For this year only (2016), matching grants to GAPC- supported scholarship recipients will be in the amount provided by the congregation, even if that amount exceeds \$500.

*APPROVED (Jan to convey this to her staff and scholarship recipients.)*

**Proposal:** Accept the hearing loop proposal submitted by Warren Brown of Brown Audio Services (and EQUUAL Access) with the understanding that the set up and take down must fit within the scheduling of both the Convention Center and CMI so that we incur no expense over the \$2600 requested.

*APPROVED (Jan to respond to Warren Brown and adjust the budget accordingly.)*

**Proposal:** Schedule the following GAPC meeting dates—Kansas City, January 12-15, 2017, and New Orleans, April 6-9, 2017.

*APPROVED*

Branding for GA 2017 has moved toward Renewal GA and away from Justice GA  
Word choice still in play—Renewing the Spirit: Resist, Restore (maybe Reimagine), Rejoice

- Report from Laura Howe—Requests us to make more, much more, site-specific GA information accessible earlier; this is particularly important as Local Chair works to attract folks who have never attended a General Assembly.
- Jan Sneegas reported on 2016 Witness plans. With a focus on racial justice, the planners have chosen to call the event State of Emergence. Planned to occur at the State House, the rain location will be in Batelle Hall at the convention Center, seating for 1800. Free, accessible buses are available for those who cannot walk the .8 mile distance, and seating will be provided for those who cannot stand or sit on the ground. Transition time from General Session to Witness is 45 minutes.
- Conference Call with the Rev. Deanna Vandiver, Co-Director, Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Reform (present through Saturday afternoon) and Ruth Idakula, Co-Director, Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Reform re: reimagining what we as UUs could be through GA 2017 in New Orleans.
- Conference Call with the Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper and Steven Ballesteros, Co-Chairs of the Right Relationship Team re: the challenges of creating right relationship at GA among people who are not in on-going relationship with one another through a congregation or other UU environment.
  - The Team will be 10 people plus the 2 co-chairs plus the 2 youth chaplains (who will serve as liaisons with the Youth Caucus and not active service providers)
  - Recruitment is ongoing to increase proportion of people of color
  - In conversation with Moderator Jim Key about RRT time in General Sessions; *the GAPC recommends the co-chairs become part of a Board webinar prior to GA*
  - RRT space in Convention Center to include comfortable, casual conversational seating as well as more formal conference table seating
  - *The Rev. Chip Roush, GAPC Chair, will provide the RRT Co-chairs time during the GA Orientation session to explain their work.*
  - *Mary Alm will communicate with both Sue Boone, House Manager, (need for set aside chairs in General Sessions for RRT members) and Laura Howe, Local Chair, (reminder of need for comfortable seating in RRT office).*

While not formal **Proposals**, the actions indicated above by italics were recommendations of the GAPC concerning the work of the RRT.

- Report from Susan Peck, GA Music Coordinator re: relationship with Worship Arts Team (WAT) and reexamination of position description for Music Coordinator.
- Conference call with Leon Burke, shadow GA Music Coordinator, Sarah Dan Jones, GA Band Leader, and Markus Grae-Hauck, shadow GA Band Leader. GA Choir Director re: responsibility and accountability for all things musical throughout GA; understanding the work as the work of shared ministry.

### **Evening**

- Conference call with Denise Rimes, UUA Board liaison to GAPC. We reported on our meeting to date, and Denise told us that GA was on their agenda for tomorrow. We all agreed that no Board participation at GAPC meetings was most unfortunate and not to be repeated.

### **Saturday, Apr. 16 Morning**

- Tour of conference center with Youth Caucus, Local Arrangements Task Force, Super Volunteers (Accessibility Coordinator, House Manager, Administrative Assistant, Registrar), and EQUUAL Access representative.
- Meeting with Youth Caucus.
- Update on portfolio and liaison assignments—individual reports resulted in the following concerns:
  - Clarification of role. For example, the chair of the Worship Arts Team (WAT) is generally invited to participate via conference call in GAPC meetings, but the chair of the Program Development Group (PDG) is not. GAPC has people on both teams; one is called a liaison, the other is not.
  - Phone service is always an issue in convention centers, related to band width. Affects Chaplains and Right Relationship Team and everyone else.
  - Kiddie Corps proving their worth as they welcome a child with cerebral palsy. Day Camp will be co-chaired and focus on neighboring faiths, accommodating both one-day and multi-day participants.
  - GA Band placement continues to be a concern related to convention center facilities. As a signal of shared ministry, they need to share the stage, but ... the ability of the stage to accommodate all concerns (including accessibility) is always limited. Prioritization of stage use should be codified.
  - Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) will be sponsoring a UUA presidential candidate forum in a separate rented space. *(The Rev. Chip Roush will assure they are in contact with Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Chair, Election Campaign Practices Committee.)*
  - Although freight elevators will have to be used by persons with mobility concerns, the convention center is adding carpeting to cut down on noise.

While not formal **Proposals**, in addition to the above note in italics, the GAPC plans to use time during our September meeting to discuss both the role of liaisons (how is our current system working and how might it be improved) and the work of the Music Coordinator and other musicians in relation to all aspects of GA.

- Tuli Patel will assist the Rev. Chip Roush to plan the GA Orientation session.

### **Afternoon**

- Report from Jan Sneegas and Mary Alm re: continuing evolution of Local Arrangements Task Force (formerly known as the Volunteer Committee); all is in flux
- Review of GAPC schedule during GA facilitated by Jan Sneegas. *(Jan will send out revised schedule by April 22.)*
- As always, GAPC will host a reception during GA for leaders. *(Everyone on GAPC will send the Rev. Chip Roush contact information for their liaison and identity groups.)*
- Report from Jan Sneegas and Mary Alm re: revised policy manual; there are gaps where policies should exist but do not appear to exist; some policies are written and can be affirmed by the GAPC. *(Jan and Mary will conference and make a list of policies that need to be drafted. Others on the GAPC stand ready to draft policy as needed. Approval of existing policies will be added to future agenda.)*
- Report from Mary Alm re: efforts to meet transparency guidelines; work loads in the GACS office have affected the ability of that office to update web page with appropriate information, such as meeting agendas and approved minutes; movement toward transparency is ongoing.

(While not formal **Proposals**, in addition to the above notes in italics, the GAPC plans *to use time during our September meeting to discuss the Mission and Purposes of the GAPC and our connection to the Global ENDS/Shared Vision of the UUA.*)

- The GAPC elected Executive Team officers for the 2016-2017 year, i.e., post GA 2016 through GA 2017.  
**Proposal:** Re-elect the Rev. Chip Roush to serve as Chair of the GAPC.  
APPROVED
- Proposal:** Re-elect Debra Boyd and Ila Klion to serve as Co-Vice Chairs of the GAPC.  
APPROVED
- Proposal:** Elect Katherine Allen to serve as Secretary of the GAPC.  
APPROVED

### **Sunday, Apr. 17**

- The GAPC identified issues which need addressing at future meetings.
  - Nature of reporting process—how to signal content of report in agenda, written reports distributed in advance, etc.
  - Continuing exploration of proper/best make-up for the Worship Arts Team as well as relationship with the GAPC.
  - Addressing clarity of both roles and process on GAPC. One process piece that's needed is a visual signal to halt the process and (re)establish clarity.
  - Remaining committed to caring for one another and taking care of one another.

Although not a formal **Proposal**, it is the desire of the GAPC to *receive agendas one full week in advance of the meeting date.* (*The Chair and Jan Sneegas will collaborate to make this happen.*)

- Following tradition, the GAPC and Jan Sneegas attended church together. We attended the 10:30 am service at North UU Congregation in Lewis Center, OH.