

General Assembly Planning Committee  
New Orleans, LA  
January 14-17, 2016

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, outgoing Chair; Rev. Chip Roush, incoming Chair; Debra Boyd, Co-Vice Chair; Ila Klion, Co-Vice Chair; Mary Alm, Secretary; Katherine Allen; Rev. Jenn Gray; Tuli Patel; Samuel Prince; Laura Howe, 2016 Local Coordinator; Jim Key, Moderator (present through Friday lunch); Jan Sneegas, Director of GA & Conference Services; Jolanda Walter, 2017 Local Coordinator (present through Saturday afternoon); Deanna Vandiver, Co-Director, Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Reform (present through Saturday afternoon); Ruth Idakula, Co-Director, Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Reform (present through 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, Jan. 14**

- Ingathering and check-in

**Friday, Jan. 15**

- Modifications made to the agenda presented by Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
- Transparency update presented by Mary Alm  
**Proposal:** Approve minutes of Nov. 16, 2015, as submitted.  
*APPROVED (Mary will arrange for the minutes to be posted on the website of General Assembly and Conference Services.)*
- Conversation with Jim Key, Moderator  
**Reducing the number of members** on the General Assembly Planning Committee can be approached in several ways. *(Mary Alm will add this to the list of future agenda items.)*
- Report on progress of Local Arrangements Task Force in Columbus presented by Laura Howe  
**Proposal:** Accept recommendation of Horizon Prison Initiative as Service Project for GA 2016 Columbus.  
*APPROVED (Laura to convey this to local volunteers.)*
- Report on work of the Program Development Group (PDG) presented by Mary Alm. (All accepted programs presented in the January meeting packet.)
- Conference call with Rev. Carolyn Patierno re: the work of the Worship Arts Team (WAT) for GA 2016 Columbus
- An update on what is planned for the Witness event for GA 2016 presented by Jan Sneegas and Ila Klion
- Planning for the upcoming reception with local leaders facilitated by Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
- Rev. Paul Langston-Daley is resigning from the General Assembly Planning Committee after this January meeting, and Rev. Chip Roush is stepping up as Chair (as noted in the

Nov. 16, 2015, minutes). The Committee is weighing the need to have additional ministers as members.

**Proposal:** Request the UUA Board of Trustees not to appoint anyone to fill the vacancy created by Paul's departure.

*APPROVED (Moderator Key to convey this to rest of Board. Mary Alm will add the consideration of additional minister members to the list of future agenda items.)*

- 2-hour workshop focused on racism—both the definition of racism used by the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal (“Racism is Race Prejudice plus Systemic Power”) and our individual experiences of racism—facilitated by Deanna Vandiver and Ruth Idakula
- Reception with local leaders (about 15 guests)
- Debriefing of both workshop and reception

**An outline of remarks for the annual meeting with local leaders** should be scripted for (a) consistency from year-to-year as well as (b) a more focused message and tone. *(Mary Alm volunteered to develop such an outline.)*

- A deep chair discussion about transforming General Assembly with the participation/collaboration of others facilitated by Rev. Paul Langston-Daley. The mission statement for the General Assembly Planning Committee needs to be revisited to make clear that our intent is to build more resilient and compassionate Unitarian Universalists. We must keep our focus on Mission and Movement in the service of our Association.

**Every agenda must include time for liaison concerns and questions.** *(Mary Alm will make this happen.)*

**Revisiting the GAPC mission statement** will be discussed by the Executive Team. *(Mary Alm will add this to the list of future agenda items.)*

### **Saturday, Jan. 16**

- Tour of the New Orleans Convention Center
- Debrief tour. We were not back on time because we split into several groups with their own questions, resulting in often having to wait for the entire group to coalesce before moving to the next point of the tour.

**We need explicit expectations for group behavior on such tours.** *(Jan Sneegas and Chip Roush will consult about developing something.)*

- An update on the activities of the General Assembly and Conference Services (GACS) office and the budget for GA 2017 presented by Jan Sneegas.

**Proposal:** Accept 2017 draft budget for GA 2017 as presented and amended.

*APPROVED (Jan Sneegas and Mary Alm will ensure that this is posted to the GACS website when the minutes are posted.)*

**Jan will send budget code for registering for GA 2016 as well as making a hotel reservation in Columbus. We must also fill in the online form to get on the master bill for our hotel rooms.**

- Conference call with Susan Peck, GA Music Director and Song Leader, re: her work for GA 2016 Columbus. Dr. Leon Burke III from Eliot Unitarian Chapel in St. Louis, MO, (<http://www.eliotchapel.org/staff>) will be shadowing her in preparation for becoming GA Music Director and Song Leader after GA 2016.

- Report on progress of plans for Day Camp for GA 2016 Columbus presented by Tuli Patel. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is out, and she is confident that an excellent Camp will result.
  - Liaison reports were presented by several members.
    - **Katherine Allen and Rev. Jenn Gray will collaborate with GACS staff** on revising the survey of GA registrants, keeping in mind a request from the Office of Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Ministries for a survey of YYA participants.
    - **Mary Alm and Katherine Allen will invite the co-chairs of the Right Relationship Team** to participate in the April meeting of the GAPC via conference call to discuss their charge and their request to have a table within the Plenary Hall.
    - **Samuel Prince will contact Don Plante of the GACS** and discuss optimizing the use of social media at GA. (**Katherine Allen** may be called in to participate.)
    - **Chip Roush will clarify with DRUUMM** (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) how their needs for General Assembly space are different this year than they have been in past years.
  - A conversation about the meeting structure for our face-to-face meetings facilitated by Jan Sneegas.
    - **A core mission for each face-to-face meeting should be set.** (*The Chair and Executive Team will make such a statement part of the April Agenda, and Mary Alm will keep it on a list of future agenda items.*)
    - **We should talk about GA 2018 in Kansas City in April.** (*Jan Sneegas will add this to the April agenda, and Mary Alm will keep it on a list of future agenda items.*)
    - **We should revisit this topic in April.** (*Jan Sneegas will add this to the April agenda, and Mary Alm will keep it on a list of future agenda items.*)
    - **Expectations for meeting participation need to be clarified and codified.** (*The Executive Team will start this process and involve the entire committee.*)
  - A report from the group planning for GA 2017 in New Orleans was presented by Deanna Vandiver and Debra Boyd.
    - The UU College of Social Justice has begun conversations about Activate GA, their youth program, for 2017.
    - The GAPC is asked to open the Wednesday night opening event to the general public. (*Mary Alm will add this to the list of future agenda items.*)
    - The GAPC is asked to provide reduced full-time registrations, in the \$40-50 range, for all partners involved in programming, perhaps as many as 200. (*Mary Alm will add this to the list of future agenda items.*)
    - Art as creative resistance will be a significant aspect of GA in New Orleans.
- Proposal:** Join other UU groups in requesting the delegates at GA 2016 in Columbus to suspend the bylaws for GA 2017 in order to provide a space to practice different models of Immediate Witness.
- APPROVED* – (*Paul Langston-Daley will send the following language to Moderator Key: “We are seeking to create a Justice Focused General Assembly in 2017 where we will have more worship, witness, and service opportunities with local partners. The UUA Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Office of Multicultural Growth and Witness, the Commission on*

Social Witness, and the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal request that the delegates suspend the AIW process as dictated by our bylaws in 2017, which will allow us an opportunity to practice different models of immediate witness.”)

- Discussion of existing GAPC policy on participation in UUA election facilitated by Paul Langston-Daley.  
**Proposal:** Replace existing policy with the following language—“Each voting member of the General Assembly Planning Committee shall refrain from publically endorsing, supporting, or speaking ill of any candidate for UUA President or Moderator and shall speak of those candidates with discretion when in private.”  
APPROVED (*Mary Alm will add this to the GAPC Policy Manual*)

### **Sunday, Jan. 17**

- Executive Session to discuss right relationship/covenantal issue facilitated by Rev. Chip Roush
- Return to regular session.  
**Proposal:** Permit the Church of the Larger Fellowship to distribute and collect pledge cards during their service at GA 2016.  
APPROVED (*Jan Sneegas will contact Rev. Meg Riley with permission*)
- Following tradition, the GAPC and Jan Sneegas attended church together. We attended the 10:30 am service at First UU Church of New Orleans.