

## **GAPC Meeting** **January 9-11, 2015**

*Attendees: Jan Sneegas, Kathy Charles, Paul Langston-Daley, Mary Alm, Jim Key, Debra Gray-Boyd, Ken Wheeler, Greg Boyd, Ila Klion, Tim Murphy, Chip Roush, Laura Howe, Tequina Boston*

### **January 9**

#### Initial Notes on Packet

Page 16 of the September Packet is the AR/AO/MC statement that the committee passed, not the statement in the front of the packet

The January 2016 meeting is tentatively set for January 14-18

#### Meeting with the President

Most important function of GA is the “gathering of the tribe.”

Smaller gatherings every two years doesn't take into account the gathering piece.

Once we get past 4,000 people at a GA there is a big difference in the tone and the energy of the event.

Peter likes the re-imagining of governance and wants/likes a more deliberative process

The GAPC - a lot of what the committee has done is uncompensated staff work. An important role of the GAPC would be as an advisory committee.

Discussion on the possible vision for Columbus GA 2016:

- living into the multi-faith world that we're in.
- This has a lot of energy around it in both the UUA and progressive religious communities

BREAK

#### Leadership Lab

Reviewed the results of the survey

Discussed new Time boxing/Pomodoro method for agenda setting and meeting facilitation

#### Planning Reception with local Columbus 2016 folks

Reception will take place at 4:00 this evening

One purpose of the reception is to get feedback on justice and witness events

Witness (what is essential) - criteria used by the UUA administration as presented by Taquiena

- Local issue with national resonance
- Doesn't burden all the partners involved
- Is it media worthy
- Does it have an impact beyond the witness event
- Are we leaving a positive impact on the place where it happened

Also need to be clear about process, authority and who holds what authority.

- Choosing and directing witness is up to the UUA Administration

Agenda for Gathering:

- Introductions
  - Committee to Participants
  - Participants to Committee
- Welcome
  - From General Assembly Planning Committee
  - From the moderator of the UUA Board of Trustees
  - From the UUA Administration
  - From Local Coordinator
- Discussion on General Assembly process
- Discussion on what constitutes Witness
- Questions
- Thank You

#### Update on CCCE

There will be a conference call later this month

Tentative agenda for the call:

- Determining where/when the next in-person meeting will be held
- Does the committee agree with the charge given to the Board?
- "Are we bringing forward what is relevant, and is it relevant now?"

#### PDG Report

Good Meeting

Good Process, the PDG is working well

Question on whether there is a cultivation of leadership for someone to take on the role of PDG chair.

The PDG held over some slots for "Ferguson"

Stats:

- 2015
  - 150 slots available
  - 225 applications
  - 145 programs selected (2 w/double slots)
  - 81 proposals not selected
  - 3 workshop slots held in reserve for possible programming on “Ferguson.”
  - \$34,965 requested by sessions that were selected
  - \$17,495 awarded
- 2014 (as comparison)
  - 115 slots available
  - 258 applications
  - 112 programs selected w/3 double slots
  - 146 proposals not selected
  - \$30,259 requested by programs selected
  - \$19,550 awarded

WAT Report

Good news - creating a process to keep everyone connected

Bad news - technology; we had trouble with the FUZE program getting everyone on the call. We have switched back to phone calls for now.

General Session Instructions have gone out

New music coordinator is doing a terrific job. She is on board and on task.

There is different theme for worship than the “actual” theme of General Assembly. The theme is “Welcome Table” but it will be connected to the GA theme of “Building a New Way.” The Worship Leaders met to discuss the theme and came up with the symbol of a Welcome Table as a way to represent the “New Way.” Some leaders may draw on this image/symbol to support the arc of worship.

Witness Update

There is a Native American component to the witness. Partnering with the local Portland Native American community.

The GAPC accepted the proposal that for this General Assembly, the 30 minutes on the grid before the Public Witness belongs to Public Witness.

**\*\*Proposal - that the grid be changed to show that the 30 minutes prior to the Public Witness be changed on the grid to show that there is a “1/2 hour centering/orientation” in General Session hall relating to the Public Witness. ADOPTED.**

Can we support the request to garner volunteers to support the witness event?

Request has been made to add a button on the registration process asking if people would be willing to volunteer to help at witness.

\*\*\*Tabled - on how to respond to the request for help in obtaining volunteers for the witness event.

LUNCH

### Leadership Lab

How are we going to address that we have confusion around our decision making process?

\*\*Proposal: That 2 members of the committee get together and draft the process to get to Jan to include in the packet. (2 members named - Chip & Ila). **ACCEPTED**

### Meeting with the Moderator

The board will not be asking the general assembly to decide anything regarding governance at this General Assembly.

Desires that were shown regarding General Assembly from the Board's survey:

- more accessible
- definitely prefer the annual gathering (as opposed to bi-annual)
- more economically accessible
- business meetings every other year
- have a "justice kind of thing"
- have a "synod" kind of thing

There is no enthusiasm around going to an every other year model.

The January Board meeting will have firm suggestions from the board to see if any bylaw information needs to be changed or not.

There is some interest in Regional Assemblies.

There will be a discussion in Portland about the survey results.

An annual gathering is still important to almost every demographic of the survey.

Economic accessibility is important to every demographic of the survey.

The existence or non-existence of the GAPC is currently not on the table, but the size of the committee can be.

### Re-visioning Liaison Work

What is it that the liaison ought to be doing?

Is there an institutional structure to tap into? Might get more “mileage” from that vehicle. Creating a mirrored structure seems redundant.

\*\*Proposal - that all liaisons send the agenda to their group at a time certain, circle back to ask for feedback on the agenda & send minutes after they are approved and have a debrief conversation on that. **APPROVED.**

### Local Task Force

House Manager - stuff that is NOT on stage is the job of the house manager

There is a difference between planning and executing. Also continuity of relationship and experience. Our role as GAPC is to plan NOT execute--that is done by staff and volunteers. Our role also includes building relationships with the various groups, organizations and other people involved in creating and making GA happen. Building and sustaining those relationships is part of the GAPC's job.

\*\*We will all look and be aware in Portland to get a grasp of what's on stage and what's not.

No proposal on this issue at this time.

### Meeting with local Columbus 2016 folks

#### Debrief of meeting

Seems like it is very important to have a national presence every year.

Process Observation - technology piece continues to be a thorn in our side.

**January 10**

### Tour of the Convention Center

#### Debrief of Tour

The convention center is starting to renovate but they assure us that it won't impact our space or contacts.

Although the Center has scooters, they do not have enough for us to avoid contracting separately.

Waste stream getting captured is going to be a challenge.

It is a green center, but it is “melded” together with the Hyatt and it will be a challenge because of the independent contractors that the Hyatt uses as vendors.

### GACS Report & Budget 2016

Don is finishing 14 years of service so he will be taking the month of August off as a sabbatical for the next three years.

Stacey will take the rest of her sabbatical from October through Thanksgiving.

#### Portland

- Just contracted with Portland State for dorm rooms
- Hotel Rooms
  - The Eastland Hotel is newly renovated but NOT scooter accessible.
  - Doubletree hotel is our headquarter hotel
  - The Hilton Downtown is also a contracting hotel
- All GA attendees will be given a “Max pass” for free
- Bad News regarding sustainability- the city of Portland is contracting with a new vendor that uses a methane recapture process that has a single stream for composting/food waste. Everything else will go in a landfill including compostable service ware.
- Still trying, however, to have a waste free GA in Portland by negotiating the use of reusable service ware (china and silver)
- Children’s programming will probably be at the Doubletree

Columbus 2016 - Rate at the Hyatt and Hilton is \$140 a night

New Orleans 2017 - issue over contracting with the Marriott. Originally quoted \$149, when we went to sign contract it was raised to \$219.

Kansas City 2018 - current rate quote is \$139

This year credentialing for General Assembly will be done on-line. Congregations will not be sent pink packets, but will receive delegate credentials electronically. They will send them to delegates who will print them and bring them to GA. We are going to try a one-stop line system rather than sending people over to a credentialing line. Hopefully this will cut down on lines and confusion during registration.

The person that we have been working with at Church Mutual is retiring. This year they will be providing a smaller cyber café and two cell phone charging stations.

62 vendors have signed up for the Exhibition Hall.

There will be an evening event sponsored by 1<sup>st</sup> UU of Portland, location to be announced.

Looking at the need to cut \$315,000 from the budget for GA 2016 because of the expectation of less people coming.

**\*\*Proposal - That we allow the general public into the 30-minute witness piece. TABLED**

Conference Call w/Susan Peck GA Music Coordinator

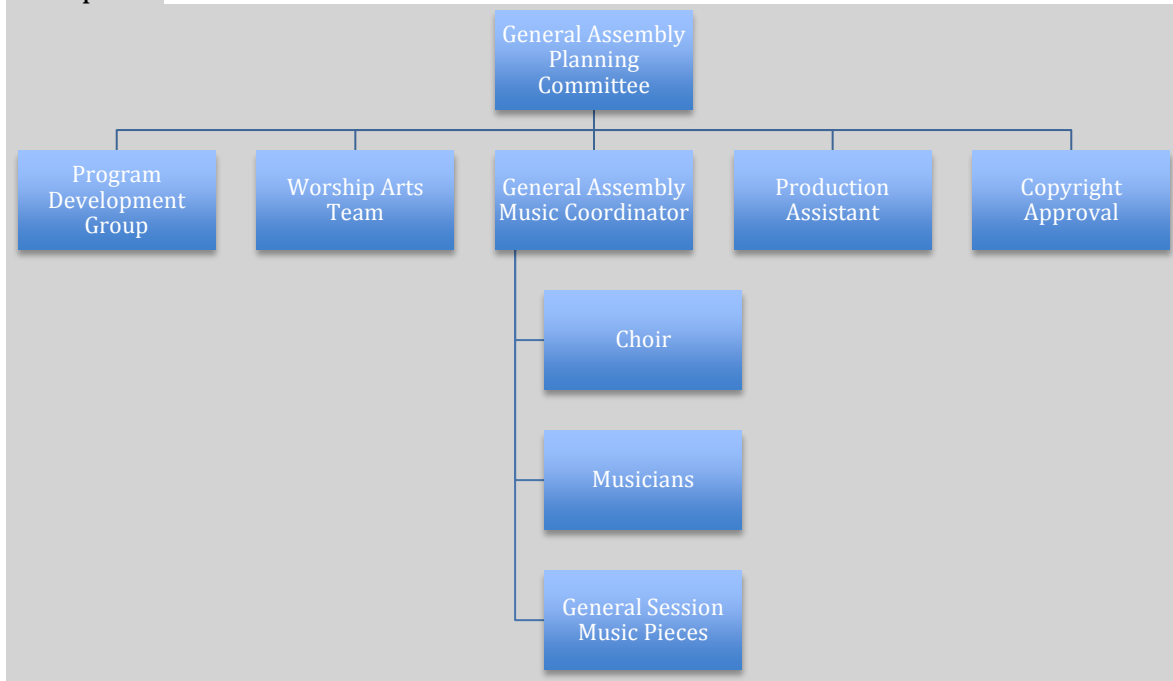
Thanks for taking on the task last minute, and agreeing to do it for multiple years.

Band members have been selected for General Assembly.

Debrief

Need to clarify the area and level of accountability of the Music Coordinator

**\*\*Proposal:**



(Note: there is a two-way arrow between the WAT and the GAMC I just don't know how to do that on Word). **APPROVED**

Jan will coordinate to make sure that the job description fits/complies with the lines of demarcation/accountability.

LUNCH

**\*\*Orientation of New Planning Committee Members will be a topic of discussion for the next conference call.**

Leadership Lab

How do we manage the “gray” areas? How do we keep our work together in one place and hold one another accountable?

**\*\*TABLED for next conference call - do we look at a new platform for our work, or do we continue to use Google docs until June and revisit if it doesn't work?**

Report of the District Coordinator

Recommend - Re-entry Transition Center, a program of Mercy Corps. NW, as this year's service project and recipient of funds from Sunday Morning Worship.

**\*\*Proposed that we accept the District Coordinator's recommendation. APPROVED.**

### Faithify Proposal

GAPC policy has been that SOLT, Sunday Morning worship, and once in General Session are the only places where an "ask" can be made without prior permission of the GAPC.

Faithify is seeking permission for them to contact program leaders to encourage them to use Faithify as a means of getting their message out. They would like a list of presenters and contact information from GACS office. Thereafter the program leaders would encourage GA participants to visit the Faithify site to further support the program.

**\*\*GAPC agreed that they could contact presenters however a list will not be provided by GACS. Jan will communicate to Faithify.**

**\*\*Proposed - that we place the policy segment of the program book into the GAPC Manual. APPROVED.**

### Childcare and Day Camp

Progress on this slowed down until we got the results of the survey.

Programming is important to our members, as is cost.

The survey shows that certain things are wanted for children's programming including religious education and worship.

Fees - currently charging for 5 days, if the person only uses 2 days so be it. This is a challenge to community building. Daily charges appear better for the users.

**\*\*Proposal - Accept Michelle's proposal (from Camp Director's report to September meeting) to reshape the RFP for a camp director. Limit the amount of children according to the space limitations. The Director will recommend and supervise an assistant director. The GAPC will hire the Director and Assistant Director. APPROVED.**

**Kathy and Tim will draft the RFP.**

### New Orleans as a "Justice" GA

A group is drafting a vision statement to take back to the working group as a whole.

There is anxiety around New Orleans being seen as the "identified patient." The people in New Orleans want to be sure that our focus is more about what coming to New Orleans can offer to those in attendance rather than what can they come to help/fix New Orleans.

New Orleans celebrates, even in the midst of all of its struggles, how do we weave that into our lives and faith?

Need to be cognizant that business will also need to be done.



As early as possible in the process there needs to be clarity around who holds the authority, what are the lines of authority.

**\*Consider asking Jim to suspend AIWs for New Orleans.**

### Questions from the District Coordinator

#### Review of Task List

Mary will shadow Kathy as the GAPC rep to the Event Coordination team

Let's Talk needs to be added to Debra's task list.

Paul needs a list of chaplains by the April meeting

**\*\*Proposal - Everyone write out what their current job description is for each of his or her tasks. In addition, we send out Mary's original email regarding the policy manual and GAPC manual to everyone and at the February conference all we assign portions of the policy manual to each individual. **APPROVED.****

**\*\*Proposal: Send Debra to ARE Conference as the ARE Liaison. **APPROVED.****

#### Scholarships

Now that we are talking about Congregations without walls does there need to be a change/hybrid to our scholarship policy?

**\*\*Proposal: Expand existing language to include UU w/a matching contribution from an institution in relationship to the UUA that the GAPC liaisons with.**

**\*\*Proposal: Accept Bart Frost's request to put 2 more photographers scholarships to this General Assembly. **APPROVED for this year only.****

**\*\*Proposal: Expand the language of the scholarship application to add UU institutions with a relationship to the UUA e.g., clusters, districts, and regions, as sources of matching grants. Those applicants with matching grants will be given preference, however applicants without a congregational or UUA institutional affiliation may apply.**

**\*\*TABLED - discussion on suspending AIW's or limiting business at GA 2017.**

**\*\*Proposal - That Ila, Chip and Kathy contact identity groups, professional groups, regional leads and district boards regarding volunteering for the Public Witness. This group will also draft a letter and collect data on who volunteers for the witness and forward the information to Alex. **APPROVED.****

**\*\*Proposal: Change the name and positions of the Volunteer Committee to the Event Coordination Committee in accordance with the following:**

- **Local Coordinator replaces District Coordinator**
  - Credentialing Specialist - appointed by the GAPS office (not a member of the Event Coordination Committee)
  - Accessibilities - appointed by the GAPS office
  - Atmosphere - responsible for the tasks and duties previously held by Ambience and Evening Entertainment; appointed by the Local Coordinator
  - Local Information Specialist - appointed by the Local Coordinator
  - Office Administrator - appointed by the GAPS office
  - Ushers - appointed by the GAPS?
  - Production Assistant to the Planning Committee - appointed by the GAPS
  - House Manager (to take effect in 2016 or 2017) - appointed by the GAPS

**APPROVED**

Chip agrees to serve on the Board's working group on General Assembly and governance.

Housing and registration for GAPS members and staff opens February 2.

## January 11

### CLF Request

CLF requests permission to hand out envelopes for pledges at its worship service during General Assembly.

\*\*Proposal: To allow CLF to pass out envelopes and accept pledges during its worship service. **APPROVED - The committee approves the acceptance of pledges not actual money.**

### Check Out

### Attend Worship Services