

January 13th, 2017

In attendance: Jan Sneegas (General Assembly and Conference Services), Rev. Chip Roush (Chair), Rev. Jenn Gray, Debra Gray Boyd (Co-vice chair), Ila Klion (Co-vice chair), Katherine Allen (Secretary), Mary Alm, Samuel Prince, Tuli Patel, Leon Burke, Jolanda Walter (Local Arrangements Chair), Jim Key (Moderator of the Board of Trustees), Denise Rimes (Vice-Moderator of the Board of Trustees)

Morning:

Introduction of Local Area Task Force Coordinator for Kansas City 2018 (Ila Klion)

- Still looking for a LATF Coordinator.
- Jenn will look in Topeka to see if someone there may be interested.
- Jan: Our system for finding a LATF Coordinator hasn't worked successfully to find a candidate for a few years, should we look at its efficacy?

Transparency Update & Expectations (Mary Alm)

- Mary and Don have worked to put up the descriptions of all the roles of the local area task force positions on the website.
- Working with Stacey Dixon from the General Assembly and Conference Services Office to clean up minutes that are posted online, Jim Key suggested 3-4 years of minutes on the website, and to archive minutes from before that time.
- We need to work on publication of agendas, especially Zoom meeting agendas.

Conversation with Moderator and Board Liaison (Jim Key, Moderator of the Board of Trustees, and Denise Rimes, Vice-Moderator of the Board of Trustees)

- The Board is working with BLUU and having ongoing conversations with BLUU on how to best support BLUU and donate funds to BLUU. BLUU is convening in March to work together to decide how they would like to gather and organize and where they want to go next.
- During Thursday at GA the delegates will break out into facilitated conversations about the Board's renewing the covenant initiative. Long-term vision is to shift the UUA to a covenantal organization where member congregations/groups covenant to work together.
- The Board missed approving the budget and the fees for GA 2017, they will approve it in January.
- Memorandum of Understanding: Peter Morales is interested in creating and understanding about who (The UUA Staff, the President, the Board, the GAPC) takes what roles at GA. The conversation has just begun, but there is still a lot of clarification and progress that must be made before a final document is produced.

--Election Update: Mixed views on electronic voting from the candidates, especially the extended length of the voting period (June 1st-June 24th). Trying to balance voting accessibility with giving delegates as many options as possible to become informed about the candidates. Still working on the fine details about how electronic voting will work.

--First Principle Vote: Two bylaw amendments that will have mini-assemblies at GA and will have Board study commissions (changing persons to beings and changing pronouns). It will be a two-year process for either amendment to be approved. A third amendment (Adding Islam to our sources) may be introduced next year.

Site for GA 2020 (Jan Sneegas and Katherine Allen)

--Could not get enough rooms in Richmond, so we took Richmond out of the running.

--Leaves us with Atlanta and Providence, which are both possible and have their pros and cons.

--Atlanta is big and diverse, but would probably attract fewer attendees. Providence has previously been a big draw and could attract a big crowd, but is less diverse and we have been there very recently.

--Conversation will be resumed later in the meeting.

Program Development Group Report & Pre-Con (Mary Alm and Debra Boyd)

--Successful PDG process that has brought together a diverse list of programming
--POC-Only Track, working with ARE on messaging/framing and protecting the space.

--Some tracks of programming are not in the programming PDF, as they are tracks of programming and not individual workshops

--There is a person being trained in to chair the PDG

Worship Arts Team Report (Zoom call with Michelle Favreault, Worship Arts Team Chair)

--Team has been meeting 1-2 times a week in small and large groups.

--Liaison relationships with non-WAT worship services, working on linkage with local arts and ministers.

--In prepare, connect, and document mode. First drafts of services are being created.

--Which services are open to the public? Knowing this can change the worship design.

-This year Service of the Living Tradition, Opening Worship, Sunday Morning Worship, and the Exhibit Hall on Sunday from noon-close are open to the public.

--Chip: Probably best to welcome in seekers, but expect that most of the audience will be UUs

--List of recommended worship participants, highlights many folks with AR/AO/MC backgrounds and people from the south.

Gail Forsyth Vail's Request

--Want to work with a graphic designer to improve the presentation of our pre-GA materials to get better readership and so that more people understand the GA materials.

Proposed:

Accept proposal from Program Discussion Group to add \$650.00 to the budget to use for publicizing GA. The source of the money will be either excess PDG funds or the GAPC reserve.

APPROVED.

UU Buddhists Request (Rev. Chip Roush)

--UU Buddhists are interested in a space for ritual practice at GA, for them and for others to use.

--Jan: We are too limited on space this year for this room.

--However, we can look into adding this space in later years if we have room.

Afternoon:

District Coordinator Report/Service Project Discussion (Jolanda Walter and Ruth Idakula and Deanna Vandiver via conference call)

--Service Project:

Five projects presented, Ruth and Deanna believe that they are all good choices.

Each organization has a personal relationship with CELSJR.

--Ruth and Deanna encouraged the GAPC to consider non-501 (c) 3 organizations in the future, as there are many people doing good work who are 501 (c) 3's.

--Local arrangements taskforce update from Jolanda:

-Close to having all the lead coordinators (waiting on one confirmation).

-Lots of people interested in volunteering for General Assembly.

-The GA chalice traveled via FedEx to many different locations, and was appreciated by many people. This method of transporting the chalice is much cheaper than taking it by car to regional congregations.

-Home hospitality is going well, 13 houses have signed up so far.

-Crawfish boil for April youth/volunteer meeting!

CELSJR Report (Ruth Idakula and Deanna Vandiver, via conference call)

--Still debating if visiting the Whitney Plantation should be encouraged for GA attendees.

--Working to figure out service projects to offer:

-Days For Girls is almost set as the on-site service project, working on what on-site service activities would look like.

- Multiple off-site projects in the works, including a clean jacket day for lawyers and paralegals (direct skill project) and other skilled service projects.
- Working on some general projects for others also.
- Chip: March 1st will be the deadline for submitting information about service projects for program book.
- Ruth and Deanna estimate that possibly 250 community members will come for opening celebrations.

Service Project Discussion (Pt.2)

--We are interested in supporting a project that closely aligns with the theme of General Assembly for 2017: Resist and Rejoice.

Proposed:

Nominate Families & Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children as the 2017 Sunday morning ask recipient.

APPROVED

Witness Update (Jan Sneegas)

- GAPC supports logistics of Witness, but the program is held by President's Office/Office of Multicultural Growth and Witness
- Carey McDonald is taking the lead on the witness this year.
- Looking at many possibilities, including the second line that had been previously proposed.
- Carey is also looking into to future and thinking about the purpose of witness for years to come.

GA Site Selection 2020 (pt2)

--Important to think about multiple types of diversity (Providence is one of the poorest cities in the country). Also think about the accessibility of Atlanta.

January 14th, 2017

Morning:

Debrief Convention Center Tour (Jan Sneegas)

- Is this a useful exercise for the committee?
- Useful for Jan to have us come and it is useful for the committee to see the space.

--The GAPC likes being able to map out the space so we better understand what we are working with and seeing the space helps us to get excited about the upcoming convention.

Director, GACS Report and Budget 2018 (Jan Sneegas)

--Jan is planning on sabbatical this fall, most likely after the planning committee meeting thru end of December.

--NOLA: Housing and registration opens Feb 1st. Please register during that month.

--Have a suite at the Omni, but it is a loft suite with not enough space for us to gather.

--There is space at the convention center where we can meet and have our receptions.

--The Hilton is the head quarter's hotel and the biggest hotel. The Omni is across the street, and the Hampton Inn and Suites is where childcare will be.

--There is not a master account at every Hotel, check if there is a Master Account with Jan. Omni and Hilton are for sure.

-- A possibility in future years: Make the Sunday Morning Ask a donation to the UUA and make the Saturday General Session ask the service project ask. (Request from Stewardship and Development)

-We would like to leave an impact in the city we are in.

-It would also be good to support the UUA, especially with the coming change in APF.

-The framing of the ask is incredibly important.

-We are not currently interested in this possibility.

--Still negotiating space in Kansas City.

--Spokane has major contracts signed, with a few smaller hotels left.

--2018 Budget:

-Looking at print-on-demand nametags, would be a little more expensive but better for environment, saves time, and allows anyone to go to any registration booth.

-Pronouns will be on nametags, but will be selected from a list, not write-in. -

-This will start in NOLA.

-Still printing programs for 2018, people really like having paper programs.

-3972 people with a registration rate of \$375 needed to cover the current 2018 budget. This would be a \$15 increase from GA 2017 registration.

--2021 Site Search Possibilities: Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, and St. Louis.

Proposed:

Increase insurance budget from \$6000 to \$10000.

ACCEPTED.

Proposed:

Approve 2018 budget as amended.

ACCEPTED.

GA Music Coordinator Report (Leon Burke)

- The Worship Arts Team is looking at building sensory-rich worship.
- New forms of collaboration are being used, lots of small group work, music is often thought of after everything else.
- Leon requests an increase in the worship arts budget to help support the same quality of music while also leaving money for the new forms of worship.
- Put out a call for new UU music for new songs to sing at GA.
- EQUUAL Access is working on a hymn competition for non-ableist language hymns.
- No clear budget for music makes decision-making more difficult. The music budget is combined with the WAT budget, and clear guidelines of how the money should be split have not been set.
- Ruby Bridges Cantada:
 - 40 minutes of music, could be a full service.
 - Waiting for Jason Sheldon to respond to see what he is interested in.
 - Working on finding the best way of incorporating it.
 - Current thought is for it to be Thursday evening entertainment, but this could change. The general session hall was requested for the space, but this could also change.
 - We proposed and approved opening the event to the public in the December Zoom meeting.

Afternoon:

Task Review Including Planning Committee Manual Update (Mary Alm)

- Tuli is taking the task of Gifts and Gratitude, as she is not rolling of the GAPC.
- This task should be given to someone new in the year when the volunteer is rolling off the committee.
- Person who is Chair of planning committee should attend the Council on Cross Cultural Engagement.
- Adding a Worship Arts Team Member to the Council on Cross Cultural Engagement could be helpful.
- Evening Events: It would be helpful to label the Dance as a Dance, instead of an evening event.
- Updating Tasks: Mary could now use some help from members to update their individual roles for the new manual.
- Could use clarity on our policies so that going forward they are clearly listed out for the future.
- All of the task forces should be ready for group conversation for our April meeting, and we should have the conversations about their recommendations then.

Liaison Roles, accountability structures, covenant with BLUU/DRUUMM (Rev. Chip Roush)

- Why do we have liaison roles, are they worth the time, and can we come up with a better structure?
- Having someone for organizations to specifically talk to is useful for them and for us.
- Having one person responsible for sending out the Agenda, GAPC information, etc. to others could be helpful so that we could have consistency about the spread of information.
- Liaisons work to help organizations' voices be represented in the room.
- Clear statement of accountability could help. (To whom and why?)
- Responsible vs. accountable: Need to be both, not just responsible.
- Expectations for the committee do not align with our language anymore, as the language is from when we were a means and not an ends committee.

GA Site Selection 2020 (pt. 3)

- What values are at play in our decision?
- Quality of GA and attendance are not necessarily correlative.
- 400th anniversary of the Mayflower is in 2020. Providence could be a good place to address this, as we would be near the history of this and how it affected so many people.
- Could engage with our own New England history and the Mayflower.

GAPC Election Process (Rev. Chip Roush)

- Current GAPC policy is that you must have been on the committee for at least a year to be on exec, and at least two years to be chair. Ila, Tuli, Jenn, Katherine, and possibly Debra if she runs by petition would be eligible for any position.
- Do we need four people on exec? That would more than half.
- Secret ballot can be helpful.
- Put together plans for different election possibilities, and have a zoom call in February/March where we will pick the process.

Proposed:

Have the executive team be a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary starting the day after GA 2017.

APPROVED

- Eligible people should contact Samuel by April 1st with the positions they are interested in.

- Exec: Candid description of your role on the committee to Katherine. February 14th.
- Need to use zoom call time to create a process for elections. Chip will work on creating document of that process.

April Agenda (Candidates and 7th Principle) (Jan Sneegas and Mary Alm)

- Romana Cohen (from Meet Green) wants to know if we would be interested in a mini-workshop around the 7th principle.
- Jan will give us more information later on what that could look like.
- Crawfish boil as our volunteer/youth event at the April Meeting.

Mission of the General Assembly Planning Committee (Group discussion, thought exercise lead by Denise Rimes)

- What are our values?
- What is it that you hope to achieve through this effort? (Mission Statement)
- Our current mission statement is much more about what we have formerly done, than what our mission is.
- Write a draft mission statement based on values we see as important to the committee.

January 15th, 2017

Morning

GA 2020 Site Selection pt. 4

Proposed:

Recommend Providence, RI as the location for GA 2020.

APPROVED.

Transparency Review

- Working on finding a place to post agendas.

Parking lot from the meeting (collected throughout the meeting):

- Conversation about alcohol use on the committee.
- How would we like minutes and/or notes to be taken?
- Should the social justice project always be a 501 (c) 3?
- Discussion on space for spiritual practice at General Assembly.