

## General Assembly Planning Committee

Friday, April 13, 2018

Tuli Patel, Jenn Gracen, Ila Klion, Chelsea Surfus, Oshara Meesha, Debra Boyd, Jan Sneegas, Elandria Williams, Denise Rimes, Stephanie Samson, Gaby Kusko, Leon Burke, Marta Valentin

### Covenant/Mission

- Read covenant & mission
- Created space for people to reflect about how we are or are not living into the covenant
  - Updating the Committee about the work of the subgroups was highlighted

### Consensus

- Conflict is encouraged because if there isn't conflict you aren't growing fast or far enough toward the margins.
- Two models were presented. Three options: Approve, Stand Aside, Block. Or, six options: Ascent, Go along, Reservation, Stand Aside, Block, Withdraw
- Is the Board using & how are they doing? Yes, we are & we are still learning. There tends to be some restatement. We are engaging new ways. The Board granted the staff the capacity to do value based blocks of board decisions. Sometimes people need space to think & consider things.
- Do you need more than one person to effectively block? If there is a values based block, then the group needs to clarify the value and address the concerns around that value.
- Other ways of engaging the information can allow individuals to process the emotional around the emotional processing. Going away & coming back.
- Be clear with how we are making the decisions alleviates the some of the anxiety. So being clear that one person can
- All the things are beautiful. Eagles, Bison, Bears, & Deer
- Writing, small group, and using our bodies can help us with decisions.
- How do we put our theological foundations under consensus decision making to create beloved community?
- Consensus requires that people need to be honest and say the thing really. You have to read peoples' body language.
- Transparency and the volume of data necessary is much greater for decision making.
- Speaking with one voice is part of white supremacy culture. Having room for dissent can be useful & supports a multicultural worldview.

### Local Area Task Force

- Shared list of local & national volunteer committee leaders.
- Asked GAPC to review documentation for LATF because the job is changing. has been to over 41 congregations
- Local housing is still available

- Resources are being collected about locally owned &/or minority owned businesses, businesses with physical accessibility, businesses that are LGBTQIAA friendly, Vegan options, Gluten free options, etc.

### Safety Teams

- The Board/GAPC/Administration team met to discuss Safety Teams
  - The Safety Teams will be accountable to GAPC
  - The funding will be a third a third a third from each partner
  - A budget of \$7000 has been set
    - Two rooms
    - 10 registrations
    - Food
    - Identifying Garb
- A meeting will be scheduled between the leaders of Safety Team/Chaplains/RRT and their liaisons
  - Safety Team protects people from power differentials in safety situations
    - Westboro
    - Large Public Conflict
    - Police//Deportation
    - Central to Deescalations
  - Chaplains
    - Support individuals engaging with spiritual distress & experiencing medical challenges
  - Right Relationships
    - Work with individuals in majority identities learn and process about issues of oppression
  - Chaplains will have space
  - RRT & Safety Teams will share space
  - Training will happen for Safety Team & it will be open for other leadership to attend the training as well.

### GACS

- Staff
  - Doing well. Stacey will be on sabbatical in the fall
  - Projected attendance
    - Currently, we are projecting about 3,000 people
    - This could result in a loss that may eliminate our reserve
    - We need to look for the draws to the Assembly
  - Seeking reusable options in lieu of t-shirts purchased annually identifying options for RRT & Safety Team for environmental values concern
  - Selection of 2021 site
    - GACS & a GAPC Des Moine, Milwaukee, & Pittsburg were considered.
    - Des Moine didn't have enough hotels close enough to the convention center

- Milwaukee has more hotels, but the convention center is small
- Pittsburg has an amazing convention center, but the hotel block is not elegant in terms of location from the center
- Milwaukee is part of a consortium with Providence & Portland where they will contribute funding if two or three of the cities are used.
- Milwaukee is a majority minority city, but is one of the most segregated cities in the nation.
- Two unarmed people of color were shot in Milwaukee in 2014 & 2016.
- Milwaukee has a number of larger UU congregations within an extended geographic area.
- Tuli: Proposed that GAPC accept the site selection team for 2021. Approved.

Reconvened at 1:30

#### Posters

- There were roughly 35 applications. Final Exit was the only poster not accepted in part because they have a booth in the exhibit hall

#### Sustainability

- The convention center has been great. They have hired an additional person at their expense to help with sustainability and composting. They are not purchasing carbon offsets as the center is owned by the city. The current diversion rate is low so we should be able to see a substantial improvement.
- The offset projects are truck stop electrification, Bandon Improved Forest Management, and Kenyan LifeStraws.
- A lead volunteer will be filling the role of the second lead for sustainability.
- Bring your own coffee mug/water bottle communications will be appropriate as we get closer

#### Board/Moderators

- Bylaw changes review
- No one is running against Co-Mods
- Plan for 2019 Moderator Election
  - Someone who applied has since stepped back
  - The Board is going to write a job description with required and optional pieces
    - Focus on people who have the institutional knowledge of governance and committees

#### Carey McDonald

- We developed some news ways to promote GA, but we also have some plans that have not been manifested yet. We are planning on some regional pushes via email and social media.

- We realize that we have been delayed in announcing the Ware Lecturer and some other powerful people who will be presenting at GA.
- We are planning on ramping up the exposure of GA to the broader UU community.
- We are hoping to be able to announce the 2019 Ware Lecturer at GA 2018
- We agreed to allow BLUU to make the plans for Witness and so we need to let them do that work. And, staff is following up to learn the plan and how we can support it.
- Networking Sessions
  - Three kinds of networking sessions
    - Friday night: 30 applications for 20 slots. Prioritized Identity based and Spiritual/theological areas of interest. It will be up to the hosting folks to determine the time
    - Wednesday afternoon 4:30 to 5:30. Topic based networking times hosted by UUA staff. Congregations in search, offering Sanctuary, countering white supremacy culture.
    - Poster slots: Have been awarded.
- Looking at setting up meet-up opportunities outside the Exhibit Hall.

#### Worship Arts Team

- The Arc of Worship has themes with ravelling and unravelling in these times with fabric and thread references
- In-gathering is celebratory and contemplative; there will be a song about unraveling. The theological complications of examining where we have come from to move forward.
- Thursday morning: Initiating & weaving the multiple threads
- Friday: Communion service & weaving of stories (history/where did we come from/coming together to share our stories over pie)
- Saturday morning: Youth led service highlighting youth activism. “Frayed knots” is the theme. Not being afraid when we are called to big things.
- Synergy & SLT are less integrated into the theme
- Closing is more challenging
- Our first set of script deadlines is in two weeks
- We are juggling permissions for printed materials
- Complexify & leave with a feeling of hope
- Dreaming going forward: It is good to have a large number of voices & it is very labor intensive. We need to reimagine how do we provide administrative support for worship. The distance from inner decision makes it more difficult. Looking at the relationships between the professional organizations. Set groundwork for team approaches, but we are not at our most efficient yet.

ARAOMC: Process with Rev. Marta

Saturday

Tour of Convention Center

Convene 10:37

Ila, Leon, Denise, Jenn, Tuli, Chelsea, Debra, Elandria, Marta, Jan, Oshara

Opening Reading: Jenn

Tour Debrief:

- The tour is hard because everyone needs to see a different part of the center. It isn't the most accessible or convenient center. We will need some good signage.
- Given that Kansas City has a 9 pm curfew for youth, we need to ensure that Safety Team needs to be part of a crew who monitors the transitional space between programming and housing at the end of programming. Also, learn how YYA Office is planning on engaging this.

Hearing Loop:

- **Propose that we accept the proposal to install a hearing loop in Kansas City. Approved.**

Safety Teams:

- Liaison:
  - Ila volunteered to be liaison. The Committee accepted. We felt that having two faces (one for chaplains/RRT & one for Safety Teams)
- Funding:
  - **GAPC commits to providing a third \$7000 with third division between Board, Administration, & GAPC for GA 2018 & the cost/cost allocation will be revisited at GAMAP 2018. Accepted.**

Travel Letter for attendees from UUA

- Elandria will work with UUA staff to craft a letter for as a resource if the Administration and Board deem it appropriate.

Social Media Policy

Proposed Social Media Guidelines and Policies

1. We will mostly post stuff the UUA has already posted that relates to General Assembly in some way.
2. Chelsea and Jenn will take primary responsibility for that, other members of the team will be able to post as well.

3. We need to discuss the approval of minutes. Does making them public need to be approved (does this conflict with transparency guidelines?)
  - a. When minutes are approved we will post them on the page – in the document section.
4. Content that is not provided by the UUA
  - a. Our meeting site and location should be published
  - b. Pictures and check-ins from our meeting that are clearly public information
  - c. Self-generated content related to social action type projects
  - d. Any and all public information related to general assembly
  - e. The creation of new teams
  - f. The GA Acronym guide!!
  - g. We will highlight different groups that are represented at General Assembly (LREDA, Youth and Young Adults, Chaplains, RRT, Etc...)
5. Information about the location
  - a. Gathered from the local area coordinator
  - b. Local ministers perhaps
6. If we are aware of any memorials

#### Policy-

1. The social media platform use is guided by the mission and charge of the General Assembly Planning Committee and will be monitored and moderated with our shared values.
  2. All social media postings on our page are speaking for the group, not for the individual.
  3. Posts advertising political candidates or private businesses are not permitted.
  4. Get permission to post photos of individuals – can be verbal permission. Expand and create explicit language regarding children & youth
  5. Currently all GAPC members are admins of the facebook page
  6. The social media coordinators are primarily responsible for moderation
    - a. The social media coordinators will be able to remove problematic posts in consultation with one another, rather than the entire team.
      - i. They will follow up as appropriate with the individual and/or the entire team.
- Come with a recommendation for how we conduct ourselves online with regard to our positions on the Committee.
  - How we delineate ourselves from GAPC or can we?
  - Hopefully we will discuss in May

#### Policy Manual

- Tuli, Jenn, & Debra will review policies for review before the new folks join.

#### Local Area Coordinator

- Tuli & Debra will review the Local Area Task Force

GAPC with Board on Monday morning?:

- We are willing to engage the experiment of having an Expanded Council on Cross Cultural Engagement debrief of GA. We will not book flights until 4pm.

Schedule at GA

- Monday
  - 6:00 Dinner
- Tuesday:
  - 8:30 to 11:30 Breakfast GAPC
  - 5:30-7:00 Reception for all the people who help put on GA
    - CSW
    - Professional Groups
    - Youth
    - Liaison groups
    - Etc
- Wednesday, 20th
  - 8:30 BYOBreakfast
  - Orientation - Ila & Tuli
  - Banner 6:00-7:00 prep
  - Open 7:00-8:30
- Thursday
  - 8:00-8:45 Worship
  - 9:15 to 12:15 (intro in General Sessions)
  - Feedback Table 12:15-1:15
  - GAPC bring lunch 12:15-1:15
  - SLT 7-8:30
- Friday
  - 8-8:30 Worship
  - 9-10:45 General Session
  - Feedback Table 12:15-1:15
  - GAPC bring lunch 12:15-1:15
  - General Session 1:30-
  - Synergy 4 to 5:30
- Saturday
  - 8 to 8:30 Worship
  - 9- 12:15 General Session
  - Feedback Table 12:15-1:15
  - GAPC bring lunch 12:15-1:15
  - Ware 7:30-8:30
- Sunday

- 7:30 Local Volunteer Breakfast
- Worship 9-10:30
- General Session
- Spokane Reception 12:15 to 1:30
- General Session 1:30 to 4
- Closing 4:30-5:00

GA 2023:

- **Propose: That we accept the recommendation for Pittsburgh for GA 2023. Accepted.**

Ila:

- Invite Spokane
- Write letter for Program Book
- Next zoom: May 3
- Liaison to Safety Teams

Tuli

- Orientation script
- Invite DRUUMM to opening reception
- Policy manual & job descriptions

Jenn:

- Feedback
- RRT, Chaplains, Equal Access
- Schedule meeting between RRT, Safety Teams, & Chaplain meeting
- Reimbursement
- Travel
- Scooter
- Social Media policy process
- Feedback
- Policy manual & job descriptions

Chelsea:

- Social Media
- Youth/Young Adults re: curfew & invite to reception
- Alternative funding research
- LREDA to reception
- Attend youth/young adults at GA



Debra

- Resend minutes
- Manual & job descriptions
- TRUUST
- ARE
- Reimburse
- Travel
- Board meetings

Oshara:

- Invite BLUU to reception
- Balance out AmEx

Gaby:

- Submit Expense Report
- Time slots for Volunteer Committee to meet in GAPC room
- Asking WAT about needed support
- Support LATF in training volunteers
- Need to know ambiance budget: \$1000
- Discuss pre-GA tour
- 

Everyone

- Travel
- Reimbursement
- Promote Pre-GA webinars by Board

To Do's:

- Review documentation for LATF
- Consider registration for Chalice Steward
- Recommendations for Safety Teams about who might be good to serve on the Team
- Chelsea & Jenn need GAPC shirts
- Check in with Youth & Young Adult Ministries about curfew concerns

Stephanie:

- Send slideshow to Tim & Leon
- Chelsea will work with Stephanie about how

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra Gray Boyd