

# Minutes

## Commission on Social Witness

### Videoconference Nov. 13, 2011

Attendees: Rev. Dr. David Breeden, Susan Goekler, Dr. David May (Chair), and Rev. Heather Starr

1. GA 2012 Program Proposals
  - a. Rev. John Millspaugh has agreed to lead the Ethical Eating Implementation Year workshop, if program is approved.
  - b. Susan will contact up to three recommended Immigration speakers for our proposed lecture. She will offer up to \$750 reimbursement for travel expenses and a \$500 honorarium.
  - c. David May will compile the CSW program proposals and submit them by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. UUA Website—The Sermon Contest webpage needs to be updated. David May will contact our UUA liaison for the update.
3. New Immediate Witness Proposals
  - a. We continue to believe that it is important to offer GA delegates, representing their congregations, the opportunity to take positions on immediate social issues at General Assembly.
  - b. We identify at least five major parameters of immediate witness that can be adjusted in new ways to structure GA immediate witness: 1) identity of proposer, 2) nature of the immediate witness, 3) proposal selection process, 4) proposal approval process, and 5) follow-up.
    - i. Identity of Proposer
      1. Congregation is proposer
      2. Delegates in small-group dialogue
    - ii. Nature of immediate witness
      1. Formulate a statement
      2. Perform action on issue at GA
    - iii. Proposal Selection Process
      1. Present—Petition, delegate selection, admission to agenda.
      2. CSW selection
    - iv. Proposal Approval Process
      1. Delegate debate and vote
      2. CSW approve
    - v. Follow-Up
      1. Report to delegates at end of GA
      2. Report to delegates at following GA
4. Plans for meeting with the UUA Board
  - a. CSW topics

- i. Failure of Right Relations at 2011 GA
  - ii. Rev. Jeanne Pupke's Question--By what means is the voice of the UUA most effective in congregations and the public square?
  - iii. New immediate witness options
- b. Arrangements—David May will obtain information on how travel arrangements should be made, where we should stay, and at what hour our meeting with the Board will be held, and report to CSW.