

## Commission on Social Witness Meeting



March 22 -24, 2013  
Conference Call Notes

### Friday, March 22, 2013

**Commissioners present:** Commissioners present: David May, David Breeden, Susan Goekler (chair), Heather Rion Starr, Caitlin DuBois

Susan Goekler convened the webinar using GoToMeeting at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time

After a chalice lighting by Rev. Dr. David Breeden and check in, commissioners reviewed the agenda.

Susan reported on a phone conversation with UUA Moderator Gini Corter to clarify the plenary process that will be used at the General Assembly this year. This will be the first year of implementing the limit of 3 proposals to the final agenda by a vote of the delegates from a maximum of six. The Moderator also suggested that CSW could request up to 3 questions be added to the GA Evaluation if we wanted to get feedback on our processes or proposals.

In order to be visible on the plenary floor and in the exhibit hall as commissioners, we decided to purchase navy baseball caps with white CSW letter imprinted on them.

Read aloud and reviewed the mission, covenant and meeting objectives.

We read aloud all the general strengths and weaknesses comments about the proposed Statement of Conscience on Immigration as a Moral issue that the UUA received from congregations as part of the parish poll.

We read aloud the draft SOC prepared in August keeping the weaknesses comments in mind.

We reviewed the line-by-line comments for "historical" section of SOC and made adjustments.

We adjourned at 10:45 p.m. Eastern time. (Notes taken by Caitlin DuBois)

**Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**Commissioners present:** Commissioners present: David May, David Breedon, Susan Goekler (chair), Heather Rion Starr,  
**Commissioner absent:** Caitlin DuBois

Susan convened the webinar at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time.

After a Chalice Lighting and Opening Words by the Rev Heather Rion Starr, we began reviewing the line by line comments starting at the beginning.

The first deletion was the opening quotation, which required adjusting some later wording.

Before a lunch break, we reviewed and revised the introduction, “Underlying Factors,” and “Consequences” sections.

**Lunch break** at 12:50 p.m. Eastern time (Minutes by David May)

Resumed meeting at 1:30 pm. Eastern time.

We reviewed line by line comments in the “Therefore” and “Calls to Action” section, amending as we went.

The CSW suggested that the CSW Alert as well as the verbal introduction before making the motion to accept the SOC should explain the guiding principles we followed:

- ✓ Although the Calls to Action sections suggest some actions that are specific to the United States, the overall principles would apply to immigration policies of any nation.
- ✓ Statement of Conscience should stand a test of time and state general moral principles, not generally refer to specific laws or immediate political issues. (The Dream Act, for example.)
- ✓ As Statements of Conscience, we state what should be, not try to explicate or defend current law.

We noted a need to address boundaries of nations and their affects on native peoples.

Adjourned 6:30pm Eastern time. (Notes by David Breedon)

**Sunday, March 24, 2013**

**Commissioners present:** Commissioners present: David May, David Breeden, Susan Goekler (chair), Heather Starr,  
**Commissioner absent:** Caitlin DuBois

Susan convened the webinar at 1:33pm Eastern time.

Heather shared a reflection that we consider how to make the SOC more personal and passionate and include the "personal voice" somehow--perhaps through adding in quotes.

We re-read the general comment weaknesses and discussed each in light of the revisions made.

We read this draft aloud, making comments and additional slight revisions as we read. We found and added quotes. We voted to accept this version as the iteration to submit to the GA delegates for consideration at a mini-assembly.

Prior to the meeting, commissioners individually scored the sermon contest entries and sent their scores to Susan who compiled them into a spreadsheet. We reviewed the scores and discussed our scoring. Based on the scores and discussion, we voted to give the 2013 Sermon Award to "Reproductive Justice: The Issue That Will Not Go Away." Heather will contact Audra Friend on the UUA staff to get sermon writer's name and contact info so Heather can notify the winner. Heather will ask Audra to contact the other sermon submitters and thank them for their submissions. Heather will proceed with Sermon Workshop/Program arrangements.

We made 2 suggestions for changes to the Sermon Award process for consideration by next year's CSW: 1) Move the deadline earlier in the year (January 1 or 15, or February 1) to dovetail better with GA Deadlines and 2) increase the amount of the cash award to encourage more applicants. David Breeden will discuss increasing the cash award with the UUMA, which currently contributes half of the award.

We reviewed Portfolio Assignments and Progress Reports (see Agenda for the list that we were going down).

GA logistics: our room is the Jockey Club at the Marriott.

Finance/Budget/Expense Reports – we are on target for this year but need to look for the call for budget requests for next year.

Media/UU World Ads – we submitted no World ads this year, but should think about it for the fall issue, if the cost is not prohibitive. David May will forward to Susan files with art for previous ads.

For the Immigration sessions at GA, we suggested that David Breeden might consider inviting partner organizations to share opportunities they have for acting on the SOC.

We agreed that another call before GA would be a good idea. Susan will poll commissioners to find a date and time.

During the Process review, David May reflected on changes in the CSW over the years.

Following a check-out, the meeting adjourned at 5:30pm Eastern time. (Notes by Heather Rion Starr)