

Commission on Social Witness Meeting



Notes – 6/24/2013 (post GA)

Commissioners present: David Breeden, Caitlin Cotter, Susan Goekler (Chair), Christina Sillari

Staff/consultant present: Audrey Fergason, Jessica Halperin

Susan Goekler convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. in the restaurant of the Marriott Downtown Louisville.

After checking-in and introducing ourselves, we debriefed what happened at GA.

- The CSW baseball caps were useful when commissioners were on the plenary floor.
- At AIW mini-assemblies, Commissioners need to enforce the rule about permitting only delegates to speak.
- Could district/regional assemblies be used to orient delegates to the social witness process so they are better prepared when they come to GA?
- Staff need to be more involved in reviewing potential AIWs (one of the 2013 AIWs instructed staff to do something that they did two years ago).
- More clarity is needed on the AIW criteria.
- Offsite delegate participation:
 - Offsite delegates had more opportunities to essentially re-write the SOCs and add lots of amendments than onsite delegates. We should perhaps limit any one delegate to a maximum of five amendment suggestions.
 - Caitlin will investigate technology possibilities to allow off site delegates to participate in the mini-assemblies.

Susan reviewed the tasks facing the Commission during the coming year:

- Reviewing proposals for new CSAIs (due October 1) – conference call in October
- Receive and review comments on Reproductive Justice (due March 1)
- Review and score sermon contest submissions; decide on winner; coordinated with winner
- Plan sessions for 2014 GA
- Manage CSAI selection and AIW processes at GA

We will meet via webinars.

Susan introduced the need to engage in discernment about the best ways for the UUA and GA delegates to engage in social witnessing as well as clarifying responsibilities and authorities between CSW, Board, UUA Staff, delegates, and congregations. This is something we will spend time on this year.

We reviewed the various portfolios and decided on assignments, as follows:

- Point person for Immigration: David
- Point person for Reproductive Justice: Caitlin
- CSW Facebook page: David
- Media contacts, ads, and UU World communications: Christina
- Monitor and manage CSW list serve and socialwitness@uua.org e-mail account: Susan and Jessica
- Outreach to youth and young adults: Caitlin
- Ministerial outreach (sermon contest, deadlines for various opportunities): Christina
- Finance/budget/expense reports: Christina
- Volunteer coordinator at GA: David
- CSW Alerts: Susan
- CSW web updates: Susan
- Room & site arrangements for any meetings and GA logistics: Susan
- Plan & lead meetings, staff liaison, primary spokesperson, compiler of minutes: Susan

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.