

Commission on Social Witness



Notes – Video conference 11/19/2014

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

Susan convened the meeting at 8:00 PM Eastern time with GoToMeeting. Christina provided a chalice lighting.

We approved minutes of November 19, 2013.

We continued to discuss issues with the CSAI process raised by staff member Jessica Halperin and ways to change the Proposer's Guide in hope of receiving better proposals, especially in the Actions section.

Commissioners agreed to edit answers to questions in proposer's guide:

5 and 6- Susan

2 and 3 - Caitlin

1 and 4 - Christina

7 and 8 - David

9 and 10 (we can wait on)

We need to be consistent with the by-laws and use language from the last CSW meeting.

A new concern was access to the comment form for Reproductive Justice. After looking at the UUA website, CSW recommended bringing the form from behind the firewall so that anyone can access it.

- Filling out the form and typing all comments is too much to ask of a church administrator. We're putting barriers up for members that might have an interest in the Study Action Issue.
- The comment form itself (not just the questions) for reproductive justice needs to be on the site in Word form so people can type on it (or a fillable PDF). People should be able to submit completed forms as email attachments, through the website, or via mail. Susan will contact UUA Staff about changing access to the comment form.

Questions to add to those from the last CSW minutes for discussion with UUA Board and staff vis a vis respective roles for social witness:

- a. Who decides/controls what is on the CSW part of the UUA website, in particular in terms of where things are placed and what is restricted or not?
- b. How does mission of CSW fit within the larger mission of the UUA?
- c. What is the business of General Assembly writ large, and how do the CSW business items fit?
- d. To whom is the CSW accountable, and how does it receive its directive?

Susan will seek discussion with Jim Key, and UUA Staff leadership.

We identified a need for future discussion of CSW covenant.

Assignments – Getting the Word Out

- a. We will all subscribe to CSW list. Susan will post a reminder the about Congregational Poll and next month about Comments for Reproductive Justice CSAI.
- b. Christina will post the sermon contest on UUMA list; Caitlin on the ministerial candidates list.
- c. Christina will check with her District's administrator and ask whether we can get a list of district administrators and ask them to send reminders to congregations via regular communications.
- d. In 2015 we should submit an article to the UUWorld about the CSAI process prior to General Assembly to hope for publication by the CSW October deadline for proposal submissions.

We reviewed the proposed alternatives for immediate witness generated by the CSW in 2011 and agreed that the Direct Action option was unfeasible. We will discuss the other options with board.

We reviewed the CSW budget and the need for CSW volunteers at GA. We agreed that four volunteer would be sufficient, if we are assigned people who know something about the process.

Next CSW Tasks:

February- Review results of Congregational Poll regarding proposed CSAIs. Communicate via e-mail. Inform proposers of decisions.

March – Read sermon contest submissions and rate each.

April - Meet again on April 8th at 8 p.m. Eastern time (7 Central, 6 Mountain, 5 Pacific) to decide on sermon contest winner, review comments on Reproductive Justice and develop GA plans.

Susan did closing.

Notes by Caitlin Cotter