

## COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS



Minutes for April 18, 2014 Video/Call Conference

Attending: Susan Goekler, Jessica Halperin (Staff), Caitlin Cotter, Christina Sillari, CJ McGregor, Guest: Sally Geller

Susan provided Opening Words.

Those present participated in brief Check Ins.

Minutes of last meeting accepted with the date of the gathering changed. Roles were accepted: CJ- Note taker, Process Observer-Caitlin.

Closed Session regarding Sermon Contest. Results reviewed and we chose "Body & Soul". Jessica will send Christina the names and contact information for the applicants. Christina will contact those submitting sermons with the decision.

Reviewed Questions 1 and 4, 5 and 6 in the Proposer's Guide for CSAI's and decided on changes.

Reviewed Edits on Question 5. (See attached) Discussed endorsements. Group agreed with the proposed change to omit endorsements of proposals -- before congregations are informed and understand the issue. Caitlin raised concern with language of "calling". Group decided to remove language and replace with "explain why UU's should engage the issue?"

Reviewed Edits on Question 6. (See attached) Jessica will work with staff to review closer from their perspective.

Reviewed Edits on Question 4. (see attached) Change contact information to Jessica's office and number-Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness Staff Group. Jessica Halperin Witness Ministries Program Associate (202) 393-2255

Caitlin will review and offer edits for Questions 2 and 3 (see attached) Caitlin felt that 2 was just fine and will email edits for Question 3 to the group. CJ will offer edits for Questions 9 and 10 and review all to make sure they read as collaborative and consistent.

UUA Staff will make only one update to the CSW portion of the UUA website before GA.

Susan reviewed her conversation with Jim Key regarding GA. The total amount of time for general sessions is significantly reduced. Saturday morning's plenary at GA will require all on the CSW. Mini assemblies will be scheduled for Thursday; proposed AIWs need to be at CSW booth in Exhibit Hall by 5 pm. At Friday's plenary one CSAI will be selected. Signatures for proposed AIWs are due to the GA office by 5 p.m. Friday night if more than six are proposed the CSW will have to pick top 6. Saturday plenary 8-9:30 am. Up to 6 AIW proposals 2 minutes each to intro AIW. Delegates vote up to three collected by tellers and counted. CSW counts ballots during plenary, so the results can be announced by the end of that plenary. They need to be counted before end of plenary which is about 45 minutes. We need twenty tellers + all commissioners to count ballots in the time allotted. Jim Key put in a request for tellers. We need a quiet space and room for counting. We need to plan how the counting will be done before GA. There are 3 mini assemblies after plenary meeting for proposed AIWs. 1 Commissioner will stay and facilitate AIW's online/ off site delegates. Other Commissioners will staff the 3 concurrent mini-assemblies. Sunday Plenary to vote on AIW's. Susan discussed with Jim to clarify bylaws to proposal removing sponsoring organizations. A decision was made to minimize business at GA and there will be no bylaw changes at this GA. Discernment related to CSW, Board, Staff roles related to CSW will not happen at GA but will be part of the Fall 2014 Board Agenda.

Susan will develop a GA schedule that we will discuss at our next meeting. If Commissioner's have other obligations they should let Susan know ASAP.

Reviewed Reproductive Justice comments from congregations. These will be important when a statement of conscience is drafted. Susan asked if themes emerged. CJ-congregations are unsure what issues are included under RJ. Christina-there is a need for education about who is affected and congregations questioned why UU's should do this. Catlin- people who felt this was a first world issue, complacency concerns. Susan-small number of congregations responded, small number of people included in responses. Jessica-observed that strong RJ congregations responded. Susan asked that we all listen for more feedback and ask questions to add to the statement of conscience.

Jessica will recommend resources that Commissioners should review to ground themselves in the issues in order to write statement of conscience.

Susan and Jessica talked about how to involve RJ advisory group of UUA. Help them engage a process that would help them articulate feedback for CSW. This will be on the agenda for next call.

Commissioners will all get on [www.uua.org/lists](http://www.uua.org/lists) and indicate which lists you want to be on, especially pay attention to lists related to CSW.

Group discussed possibility of sermon contest winner to write an article for UU World. Christina to follow up.

Caitlin and Jessica continue to engage youth and young adults for feedback. Christina will share CSW info at Ministry days, connect with board of UUMA, and post on UUMA website.

Christina is collecting info on CSW travel expenses and will send a reminder. Jessica will forward reimbursement forms. David and CJ will coordinate volunteers. The CSW has caps to identify Commissioners during the plenaries and in the exhibit booth.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2014 at 8pm.

Caitlin offered process observations. CJ offered closing words.