

## Commission on Social Witness Meeting



Notes – 6/29/2014 (post GA)

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

**Staff/consultant present:** Audrey Ferguson, Jessica Halperin

Susan Goekler convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. in the restaurant of the Biltmore in Providence RI.

After checking-in, we debriefed GA and noted suggestions for future.

- As part of the CSW report to the delegates, explain why we are reporting to them (not a board committee). Also introduce the CSW baseball caps and CSW Alerts. Commissioners should be on stage during the report.
- The CSW volunteer orientation should include an explanation of their role in mini-assemblies – neutrality, help participants with disabilities, and give the yellow copy of the amendment form to the amendment proposer (not the AIW proposer).
- The CSAI mini-assembly needs more space OR breakout rooms.
- Include on AIW proposal form, in the Proposer's guide and in instructions the need for the 100 word summary.
- Offsite delegate participation in mini-assemblies was successful, but they need line-by-line full text available sooner.
- Advocacy by some interest groups was influential in final decisions of delegates. Should CSW do anything to try to limit that influence (decision – no).
- Ensure that there is access at the booth to previous SOCs and AIWs, perhaps by getting internet access.
- Should there be a way to amend CSAI proposals – at least the one selected, perhaps at hearing.
- We can probably make fewer copies of CSW Alerts next year 1000 each might be sufficient.
- At booth next year, consider having
  - photos of commissioners
  - list of previously adopted SOC and AIW titles available at booth
  - space for petitions people want to circulate for signatures (outside of AIW process).
  - representations of what congregations have done as a result of recent SOCs (2014 CSW volunteer David Wilson offered to help with this).
  - safety pins for hanging banner
  - badge ribbons for participating in social witness process and for commissioners

We discussed meeting August 11-16 in Minneapolis to draft SOC on reproductive Justice.

- Jessica Halperin agreed to prepare a rough draft of key points.
- She suggested we all read “Killing the Black Body” by Dorothy Roberts and will send a reading list of other suggestions for us to select from.
- We agreed to re-read study guide, original CSAI, and review study curriculum for Reproductive Justice found on the UUA website.
- Jessica will send a list of hotels with whom UUA has group rates for consideration as meeting places in Minneapolis.

We also discussed 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 discussed whether to form a group to advise on Escalating Inequality. Several people at GA expressed interest. We agreed that IF we decide to have a group, we would invite participants (either as individuals or as one representative of an interested group). We would also have a clear charge to the group defining its role and relationship to CSW, staff, and the process. In addition to people from interested groups, we should consider including a theologian, someone from an affected group, and perhaps an economist. For now, we will invite those interested to sign up for the CSW list and share their ideas through that forum. We will decide at the August meeting about the need for a group.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.