



Minutes
CSW Conference Call
October 6, 2014

In attendance: Susan Goekler, Christina Sillari, Caitlin Cotter, David Breeden, Jessica Halperin
Absent: CJ McGregor
Meeting began at 7:00

1. **Chalice lighting:** Caitlin shared “Believing” by David O Rankin
2. **Check-in and welcome**
3. **Review minutes of August 2014 meeting:** Approved
4. **Select process observer and note taker**
Christina – note taker
David – process observer
5. **GA Proposals**
 - a. **Mini assemblies – SOC, AIW** – Susan will submit proposals for GA sessions
 - b. **Sermon contest** - Christina will submit proposal to GA for sermon contest and post info to ministers in various places for submissions of sermons for both Reproductive Justice and Escalating Inequality.
 - c. **RJ** – Caitlin will plan and submit an implementation workshop for RJ.
 - d. **Escalating Inequality**—We will ask CJ to submit a proposal for a speaker. Some ideas: an interactive process that uses activities from the Guide; involve the youth involved since they were a large part of the vote; classism in our congregations might be a good focus. This is also an issue at GA itself because it is so expensive. Jess will forward info about Susanne Zilber and the curriculum to C.J. so he can decide if it will work for us to use it and submit.
6. **Comments from RJ Advisory Group**

We read through the comments and discussed the comments: individual rights and issues vs collective rights and issues; how the issue is connected to anti-racism, which one comes first; expanding theological grounding to perhaps include the 7th principle or another theological concept like that of covenant; expanding the ally role. The Advisory Group recommends being more explicit. We need to discuss how strong and clear we want to be. Is the statement aspirational or reflective of who we are now? How can we make it accessible and boldly aspirational? We wrote it on the basis that the primary audience is UUs; Jess pointed out that other RJ advocates will also be interested in what we say and might consider it a model for others. We will all read over the comments and each take a piece to focus on and re-write. We will meet again October 27 to finalize the initial draft for posting. Christina will focus on Actions; Susan on History; David the Theology section and Caitlin the Introduction.

7. Update on what is happening with Escalating Inequality

Jessica

Team of nine people has met. The team plans to conduct interviews about the unique niche for UUs about this issue and suggested resources. Two others might be added to the group.

8. GA Planning meeting

Christina

Christina went to the meeting and felt that her presence helped the Planning Committee understand the needs of CSW. Christina and Susan will go over the GA schedule by phone. Caitlin will need to do some CPE work at GA and will need to leave early (on Sunday).

9. Activities since last meeting

a. Susan sent a letter to an AIW proposer who was interested in circulating petitions at GA about adding that as an option for social witness at future GA. The recipient was very appreciative. Susan said we would include that in the description of the CSW exhibit booth and send notices on the CSW list in the spring.

b. Susan and Jessica Halperin met to discuss processes for getting an assistant at GA, CSW and staff roles, and starting to plan for off-site delegate participation at GA on CSW activities.

c. Susan reported on a call with UUA Moderator Jim Key. Jim suggested having a CSW representative present to the UUA Board in January in Boston. The CSW should be clear about the questions and issues to raise and share them with the Board in advance. In addition to the questions we brainstormed in the spring, Jim and Susan discussed

- how we select issues for study and action realizing that many delegates lack a knowledge of what already exists.
- how the CSW's role fits into a policy governance model and how our work informs staff
- whether there are better alternatives than AIWs for speaking about issues of immediate need
- the bigger issue of GA delegates not being representative of the denomination as a whole,
- whether SOCs should be aspirational
- whether we should have a process for archiving old statements

d. Susan submitted changes to the CSW website including our mission. Jess will update the website this week.

Additional notes:

- David will contact volunteer David about the booth.
- Caitlin will contact Jennica, the youth representative.
- Budget is \$31,000.
- We should all look at guidelines for expense reports.
- We should all look at conflict of interest and declare even if we have nothing to declare with the email and form.

10. Review overall CSW assignments

- a. CSW Facebook page: David
- b. Media contacts, ads, and UU World communications: Christina
- c. Monitor and manage CSW list serve and socialwitness@uaa.org e-mail account: Susan and Jessica
- d. Outreach to youth and young adults: Caitlin
- e. Ministerial outreach (sermon contest, deadlines for various opportunities): Christina
- f. Finance/budget/expense reports: Christina
- g. Volunteer coordinator at GA: David (and CJ)
- h. CSW Alerts: Susan (and CJ)
- i. CSW web updates: Susan
- j. Room & site arrangements for any meetings and GA logistics: Susan

10. Process Observations

11. Closing: David -- Iris Murdock words on ethics.

We adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Approved 2/19/2015