



March 13, 2017 CONFERENCE CALL

Present: Susan Goekler, Chair, Richard Bock, Caitlin Cotter,
Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers and Christina Sillari

Call to Order:

Susan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, then lit a chalice and provided opening words.

Selection of Process Observer and Note Taker:

Caitlin volunteered to be process observer; Susan volunteered to take notes.

Sermon Contest

Prior to the meeting, each Commissioner read the 8 submitted sermons and rated them using a pre-determined scale. Each Commissioner submitted scores to Susan for compiling into a master rating scale. The Master scale averaged scores from all Commissioners and also reported standard deviation to determine how consistent the scoring was. Average scores ranged from 33 to 54 out of a possible 60. We agreed to eliminate those with average scores in the 30s without discussion. We then discussed each of the three sermons that had average scores in the 50s. We reached consensus on *Shared Bounty* as the winning sermon. Christina will notify submitters of the decision and will work with the author of the selected sermon to create a worship service at GA.

While the criteria and process of scoring were fresh in our minds, we looked at the criteria and decided to clarify and make several changes. Those changes included:

- 1) Advertising early and hard as early as September and October so ministers have time to consider the CSAI issues as sermon topics.
- 2) Explicitly state the judging criteria on the sermon contest website.
- 3) Screen submissions for relevance to a current CSAI and eliminate without scoring any that do not address one of those topics.
- 4) Revise the scoring criteria to be: The Extent to which the sermon:
 - a. Connects to the wider world of UUism (principles, sources, values, historical context, references part of CSAI process)
 - b. Is clear and easily understood
 - c. Clearly defines the issue (or some aspect of it), consistent with the CSAI and its study guide and/or the just adopted Statement of Conscience on the issue.
 - d. Persuades and inspires
 - e. Depth of insight; increases congregants knowledge about the issue; intellectually engaging
 - f. Holds interest throughout; emotionally engaging
 - g. Has a clear call to action and moves people to act

Update on 2017 GA CSW Programs:

- a. Before the next CSW meeting, Susan and Jyaphia will meet to work on Collective Liberation Decision-making: Reflections for UU Social Witness
- b. Before the next CSW meeting, Jyaphia and Caitlin will meet to work on Social Witness Workshop
- c. Christina will create “grid” of CSW activities for Commissioners after Susan sends copies of last year’s and of accepted programs.
- d. CSW’s exhibit. Because there will be no AIWs a GA this year, we have the opportunity to be creative with the booth. Susan made 2 suggestions:
 - Solicit ideas for the Social Witness Workshop discussion topics and facilitation leaders.
 - Invite people to share (using color coded sticky notes placed on butcher paper) what their congregations have done to move forward already adopted SOCs. Prior to GA, we would

invite UU affiliated group working in those areas to submit pictures of information. We would encourage GAers to print off pictures at the Internet café. We would be sure someone took pictures of the butcher paper submissions each day before closing the booth.

- Jyaphia will make spiced pecans that people can scoop using a spoon in to a bio-degradable cup – as an incentive for people to stop by – and to be consistent with ethical eating SOC.
- Susan will meet with Kat and Jyaphia to discuss this and any other ideas for making the booth interesting.

Board Check-in:

The UUA Board sent Susan a note asking if the CSW wanted time on the April UUA Board agenda to share the CSW's thinking on alternative ways of social witnessing. Susan referenced the second suggestion from the summary of her meeting with the UUA Board that she shared with the CSE on Feb 13 (indented paragraph below). During that meeting, the second suggestion gained the most interest. Commissioners agreed that we should share out thinking, but everyone wanted to meet again before the Board meeting to give the proposal more consideration. Each had ideas, but had not formulated them enough as yet.

(Work in progress: details to be developed if this idea seems intriguing. Community engagement process – getting feedback at GA; rooted in who we are and who are becoming. Might be information from CoA that will inform this.) The development of statements process would change completely. Congregations or caucuses or UUs already engaged in an issue and need support of faith community would submit ideas for needed statements to CSW. They would have to include a list of related statements that already exist and explain why those are not sufficient. We would say – yes draft a statement for consideration or No – not needed or not appropriate. They would then be responsible for drafting a statement using a format and guidelines that the CSW would establish (group could submit a maximum of one statement every two years). They would submit to CSW, which would review for consistency with UU Values, its uniqueness, consistency with other statements and positions, need, appropriateness, etc. Those we accept would go to delegates for consideration for adoption. No need to limit number or have them in competition with one another. Also no need for both SOCs and AIWs. This would mean no longer creating a study guide and no longer encouraging congregations to provide comments on CSAIs – there would be no CSAIs.

Update on New CSW Members

One person is on the ballot for election to the CSW – Meredith Garmon. The Appointments Committee is looking for someone to fill the position Caitlin now holds. There is one additional elected position with no candidate, but Richard is interested in staying on. Caitlin had two names of people she thought would be good candidates for the appointed position. Susan will forward their names to the Appointments Committee.

Next meeting:

We will meet again Monday, March 27.

Closing:

Susan read closing words and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Goekler
