



Commission
on
Social Witness

Commission on Social Witness Meeting

Notes - Conference Call

OCTOBER 25, 2015

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

1. Chalice lighting and 2. check-in: Susan lighted our (faux) chalice and Caitlin provided opening words. The group did a check-in and welcomed Phia back after her recent health issue.
3. Minutes: The minutes of the September 27, 2015 conference call were accepted as presented.
4. Process observer and minutes: Richard volunteered to take minutes and Christina offered to be our process observer.
5. Review of CSAIs: Before beginning discussion on the individual CSAIs the group reviewed the criteria that Susan included in the agenda. One item that needs clarification is ‘how long ago is long ago for an issue?’ The Commissioners then began a review of the 6 submissions and accepted Ending Gun Violence in America, The Corruption of our Democracy, A National Conversation on Race, Climate Change and Environmental Justice.
6. Status of proposals for GA 2016:
 - a. Mini Assemblies: Susan has submitted them
 - b. Sermon Contest: Christina – not submitted as yet
 - c. Racial Justice Implementation: Jyaphia/Caitlin – in the works, needs to be submitted
 - d. Escalating Inequality: Christina – discussed a workshop leader for GA 2016; need to be sure that this person be specific to the topic.
 - e. Adding hearing on newly selected CSAI and Social Witness: Susan will pursue this with Jim Key and Susan Weaver at a planning meeting.
7. Staff update – Our new UUA staff liaison is Susan Leslie; there is no UUA assistant for CSW at GA 2016 yet.
8. How to Engage Escalating Inequality interested parties: no report
9. Follow up with DRUMM: no report
10. Transparency Guidance: We were contacted by the UUA Committee on Transparency about how to do more.
11. Question re updating of adopted statements (CSAI/SOC): There is no way to update a statement that has already been adopted, CSW corrected a typo in the 2015 CSAI ‘**Black Lives**

Matter' – Susan will send a note to the proposers, Caitlin will send a note to the UUA Youth Office.

12. The Commissioners took note of an email received concerning the lack of sufficient time that our guidelines spell out for submitting various items.

CSW will review the CSAI process and new Commissioners will look at the guidelines to see if they can be made more user-friendly perhaps by using more graphics.

13. The group briefly reviewed the list of assignments presented in the agenda; there were no changes.

14. Susan will send out a request for available dates/times in January 2016.

15. Christina reported as our process observer. The one item of major concern will be taken care of – everything else was very positive.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bock
Secretary, Pro-tem