

Commission on Social Witness Meeting



Notes Conference Call
September 27, 2015

Commissioners present: Richard Bock, Susan Goekler (Chair), Christina Sillari
(Jyaphia had health problems and Caitlin a prior commitment)

1. To start the call at 7:08, Richard shared a chalice lighting and we did a check in.
2. Susan explained the requirements for GA proposals. She will ask Caitlin to do a submission for a Reproductive justice Implementation workshop.
3. Christina reported on the GA Planning meeting she attended. She felt it was good for a CSW member to be present. She was feeling part of the team as well as being able to confirm the CSW's needs.
4. Susan reported on the meeting of Reinventing Governance Task Group. This is a board level group looking at governance broadly. The topic for the call she attended was about what happens at GA. A paid consultant gave a report on observations of the 2015 GA and suggestions for how to be more inclusive. On the call we discussed options for AIWs and CSAIs especially mini assemblies and General Session times. We decided that some changes might include:
 - a. Training for mini-assembly facilitators
 - b. Extending time for AIW mini assemblies – or placing them at a time when there is free time afterward in case there is a need to extend time
 - c. At mini assemblies, conduct consensus votes on proposed amendments and to the extent possible decide on acceptance or non-acceptance of proposed amendments.
 - d. During general session, suspend the rules and go into a committee of the whole – spend time discussing the issue, not amendments. Ask for a motion to accept the AIW giving the CSW authority to amend to reflect the spirit of the General Session discussions.
5. Susan asked whether there were any suggestions for staffing CSW at next GA. She will reach out to a church administrator in Ohio who she knows and thinks would be a good choice.
6. We quickly reviewed assignments for those present. Both Christina and Susan offered to help Richard get up to speed on budget/finance monitoring.
7. We decided to meet again the last Sunday in October to review proposed CSAIs.
8. Christina shared a closing.

Notes by Susan Goekler