

**District Presidents Association Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2015 Conference Call**

Attendees:

Ballou Channing District
MaryLu Love

Clara Barton District
Justine Sullivan
DPA President

Florida District
Margie Manning

Joseph Priestley District
Dennis Wellnitz

Metro New York District
Mia Morse
DPA Treasurer

MidAmerica Region
Rev. Bill Sasso

Mid-South District
DeAnn Peterson

Mountain Desert District
Victor Ashear

Northern New England District
Dana Baron

Pacific Central District
Judy Young

Pacific Northwest District
Carrie Krause

Southeast District
Denise Rimes
DPA Vice President

Southwestern District
Mark Anderson

St. Lawrence District
Jeff Donahue
DPA Secretary

Absent:

Massachusetts Bay District
Laura Graham

Ohio-Meadville District
Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Pacific Southwest District
Alicia Davis

Director, Congregational Life, UUA
Rev. Scott Tayler

Task List:

All: Justine needs input on how GA InGathering is organized.

All: Send Justine a couple paragraphs about your experiences serving on the DPA for possible inclusion in revised DPA Handbook.

DeAnn, Bill, Victor volunteered to create talking points for DPA regarding regional input on GA agenda items/UUA bylaws. Justine would like the DPA to have one voice on this. Due for April DPA meeting.

Justine will ask Jim Key how we can support his effort to get additional scholarship funds for GA delegates.

Justine: Review Bill's recommendations for revised DPA Handbook and send draft to DPA.

Justine: Schedule next DPA online meeting for April or early May. Include discussion on consistent communications relating to regional governance changes.

Meeting called to order by President Sullivan at 4:00 pm. Justine apologized for not inviting Scott soon enough to allow him to participate in today's meeting.

Opening Words from "Sometimes it takes a little craziness," by Angela Herrera.

Moved to accept minutes of our November 7-8, 2014 business meeting by Victor and seconded by Bill. Approved.

Bylaw Changes Relating to Districts/Regions: Bill previously reported on language changes for recognizing districts and regions. MidAmerica does not want to lose the ability to propose changes to the UUA, however, if there's not a regional governance body it raises the question of how a region could make such proposals. These regional differences impact the UUA bylaws. UUA is trying to have equity among the regions. It's the congregations who are the members of the UUA, not districts or regions.

DeAnn spoke with Donna Harrison (UUA Vice Moderator) regarding what this would mean to a region with no governing body. UUA trustees are trying to remove issues that shouldn't be trustee roles. She's hoping the DPA could reach consensus on this broad issue. The original idea was to simplify the bylaws to accommodate districts & regions, but the changes have gone beyond expectations.

If the MidAmerica Region continues to have an annual business meeting, it could add something to the GA agenda, but the Southern Region, who won't have an annual business meeting or governing body, wouldn't be permitted to add to the GA agenda. There are other ways to get things on the GA agenda: Individual members in number could add agenda items. The Cambridge Platform supports the idea of congregations coming together to serve this purpose.

The role could be a facilitative one. For example, a group wanted a district board to sign-off on a statement, but this had to be done by DA delegates so the board acted as a facilitator to make this happen.

What is an alternative? Bill suggests adding mechanisms to add agenda items to the GA business meetings. This is important to MidAmerica, but the Southern Region has faith

in their congregations & elders to deal with this.

Justine: we're bumping into a cultural and legal change ... this is happening shortly after losing district trustees at UUA. Could this be partly why there's anxiety? The western people are concerned — why are these rights being taken away? Equity is the best answer heard so far, but the idea that all regions have access to this process when needed is good.

Justine: need more discussion on this. Small group to consider options: DeAnn, Bill, Victor volunteered. Create talking points for DPA. Justine would like the DPA to have one voice on this. It comes down to where is governance happening in your region? Small group is to bring this back to the DPA in April.

Scholarship Fund for Delegates at GA: Jim Key is hoping to get \$50,000 to start this fund. Can the DPA support this? MidAmerica's budget has a couple thousand dollars to supplement UUA funding, if it goes forward. How will this be administered? Could we get congregations to have a special Sunday for raising these types of funds? Justine agreed to ask Jim Key how we could support this effort.

Agendas for DA Meetings/InGatherings: Southern Region: DAs all about regionalization. Northern New England: Unified staff is happening with the other districts in region. MidAmerica will ask delegates to covenant to learn together, engage congregations in developing a vision rather than a management orientation to their future. Pacific Northwest: their annual meeting will be at GA, so people don't have travel expenses at two meetings. Pacific Central: one day meeting in San Francisco with the budget as the big issue. New England Region: Three of the districts are holding a joint DA; will discern the role of volunteers without governance.

GA Ingathering — DPA now responsible for InGathering. Justine wants our input. It's usually 45-60 minutes before the banner parade. Wants relationship building and informing attendees on what's going on.

DPA Handbook: Bill previously offered some suggestions via email. Justine will make recommendations and send out a draft. Justine asked each of us to write a couple paragraphs about our experiences.

CERG Update: Jeff gave highlights of a new agreement in CERG to move the locus of regional governance to the UUA and the creation of a new mechanism for linkage, leadership development, and outreach called Wisdom Seekers.

Next meeting: Justine will send an e-request for dates for an April or early May online meeting. Judy: invite incoming presidents if known. **Agenda for next call:** consistent communications regarding regional changes in governance.

Adjourned at 5:35.