



2017 General Assembly Webinars

Frequently Asked Questions

CULTURAL RESISTANCE PROJECTS

Q: Is participation in justice projects available to those participating online?

A: All of the cultural resistance projects are being held in New Orleans.

Q: Do the social justice activities have information about accessibility? Where can I find the social justice activities on the GA website?

A: All of the activities will be accessible. You can find out more about the activities on the [UUA website](#). Many of the activities are full, but keep checking back in case there are cancellations.

Q: Will there be any other service projects added at GA this year?

A: No, there will not be any additional projects added this year.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Q: Will bylaws changes have first vote this year? If there is a study commission, will the first vote come in 2018 and final vote in 2019?

A: When bylaw amendments are made to Article II, they are typically discussed to gather input from delegates. After General Assembly, those amendments made to Article II go to a study commission for further discernment, and brought back to General Assembly in 1–2 years. It is likely that the amendments being proposed this year will come back in 2018 and 2019.

Q: What percentage vote is required to adopt the Bylaw amendments?

A: Final adoption of a bylaw amendment to C Bylaws in Article II requires a two-thirds vote. You can read all of the details on pages 15–16 of the [UUA Bylaws](#).

Q: Shouldn't the 8th Principle proposal come under amendments? Is it not being presented this year?

A: The 8th Principle bylaw amendment was not officially proposed for discussion and deciding at General Assembly 2018. You can learn more about it [here](#).

Q: Where do I find information about bylaw amendments?

A: Both proposed bylaw amendments can be found in the GA 2017 Program Book on page 84. Additional information on the First Principle Project is available [here](#).

VOTING

Q: What is the process for voting for UUA President?



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A: Accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees received unique voting credentials around March 1. Each certified member congregation is entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by delegates who are members of such congregation, selected in accordance with its bylaws or procedures. The ballot allows voters to rank the candidates, so that if more than two candidates run and no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and their votes are redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated. Delegates do not need to register for or attend General Assembly in order to vote for the UUA President. The full explanation can be found on the [UUA website](#).

Q: What other races are we voting on this year?

A: Aside from the presidential election, there are a number of offices to be filled. All of these offices have candidates who are running unopposed. According to our bylaws, when candidates are running unopposed, they are elected by acclamation. Additional information can be found in the [2017 GA Program Guide](#) on pages 85–86.

- Board of Trustees
 - Kathy Burek
 - Sarah Dan Jones
 - Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti
 - Christina Rivera
- Board of Review
 - Karen Hall
 - Rev. Charlie Ortman
- Commission on Social Witness
 - Rev. Meredith Garmon
- Commission on Appraisal
 - David Friedman
 - Holley Ulbrich
- General Assembly Planning Committee
 - Debra Gray Boyd
 - Oshara Meesha
 - Tuli Patel
 - Chelsea Surfus
- Nominating Committee
 - Jessica Falconer
 - Rev. Joanne Giannino
 - Rev. Michael Walker



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Q: I hope the job descriptions for elected positions will be posted.

A: High level job descriptions can be found in the [bylaws](#). You may want to look on the UUA website at each of the committees' websites to get an idea of what they do.

Q: I understand that voting begins tomorrow and ends later in June. What does that mean exactly?

A: Voting opened on June 1, and absentee ballots could be cast once the system opened. General Assembly attendees can vote at any time, but it is strongly recommended that you vote after the final Presidents' Forum on Friday, June 23 at 8:00 PM CT in the Great Hall of the Convention Center.

Q: Please explain exactly how remote delegates will be able to participate and vote.

A: From June 1, 9:00 AM to June 24, 5:00 PM CT, delegates unable to vote in person may access their election ballot by following the voting link found on their delegate credential document. You can find more information about voting this year on the [UUA website](#).

Q: Once you vote do you have to complete your vote? For instance if you wanted to wait to vote for President but wanted to do the other voting before you got to GA, could you do that?

A: You can only vote once, so all voting must be done at the same time. The system will not allow you to enter twice to change a vote or complete a vote.

GENERAL SESSIONS AT GA

Q: I feel concerned about the level of experience of the Moderator in leading what may be a very emotional and painful and challenging GA. Has the Board given any thought to bringing in (others) to take us through this narrow passage?

A: This has been a very difficult year, but the Board of Trustees is confident in their ability to make a successful General Assembly. The Board has consulted with past Moderators and many others to bring all the necessary skills to bear.

Q: What are the reasons that people expect this GA to be "problematic"?

A: Changes in national leadership and UUA leadership have changed the political climate this year. There are many issues around structures of White Supremacy, inclusiveness, and how we make decisions in our Association. Feelings are strong about how to respond to these tensions as we become increasingly more aware of them. The Board of Trustees does not see this as problematic; rather, we see this year as an opportunity to talk candidly, learn, and join together in a way that reflects our values and highest aspirations.



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Q: What does the acronym CSW stand for?

A: It stands for Commission on Social Witness. A complete description of what the CSW does can be found on [their website](#).

OTHER QUESTIONS

Q: Does GA registration include meals?

A: No meals are included in the registration fee. There will be food service in the Exhibit Hall, and many local eateries in and around the hotels and convention centers. The [GA App](#) will have a list of dining options, as well as a list of Black-owned business that we can support.

Q: I heard the wireless/cell phone access in the convention center is not great. Is that true?

A: Because of the number of people in the convention center using service, bandwidth becomes very limited. You may find reception spotty: it is likely not your service. You may try stepping outside. If you need a computer, you can always visit the Cyber Café (sponsored by Church Mutual) located in the Exhibit Hall.

Q: Are the GA app and the UUA/GA website updated at the same time?

A: The app and the website are on two different platforms and are updated separately. If you want to be sure to get updates as soon as they are posted, you should allow notifications from the GA app on your device.

Q: Is there a curfew for minors at General Assembly?

A: In this article (6/1/17) <http://nopdnews.com/post/june-2017/nopd-announces-summer-curfew-hours-for-kids/> the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) confirms that even in the summer kids aged 16 and younger cannot be in public without adult supervision between the following hours:

- Sunday - Thursday, 9 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- Friday - Saturday, 11 p.m. - 6 a.m.

In the Eighth District (French Quarter area), NOPD is enforcing a stricter curfew:

- Seven days a week, 8 p.m. - 6 a.m.

It's really important that we give one clear message about curfew since most days GA/YC programming doesn't end until 11pm and we want to make sure everyone gets back to their lodging safely.



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Offsite Delegates

There are multiple resources for offsite delegates:

- <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2017> Watching GA from home
- <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants/live-workshops> Live cast workshops
- <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/discussions> Online discussions

This year, the UUA.org website will host the [GA Forum](#), an online General Assembly discussion that replaces the old UUA-GA email discussion list. The GA Forum is divided into separate discussions about housing, room-shares, ride-shares, first-timer questions, being a delegate, the election, and other topics. You can read just the topics you are interested in and/or receive email notifications about some or all topics.