



What to Expect at GA 2019 **“The Power of We”**

A UUA Board of Trustees Webinar



What to Expect at GA 2019



Presenters:

- ⌚ Members of the UUA Board of Trustees
- ⌚ Members of the Commission on Institutional Change
- ⌚ Debra Gray-Boyd, General Assembly Planning Committee Co-Chair
- ⌚ Members of the Commission on Social Witness:
 - ⌚ Alison Aguilar Lopez Gutierrez McLeod
 - ⌚ Dr. Susan Goekler



Attendee Tools for this meeting



- ⌚ Webinar is being recorded
- ⌚ Dial-In Connection/Computer Connection
- ⌚ Listen Only Mode
- ⌚ Use of Chat Tools (Q & A Sessions)
- ⌚ Audio Quality Survey



- ⌚ Introduction (Agenda and Attendee Tools)
- ⌚ Highlights of This Year – The Power of We
 - ⌚ General Sessions and General Conference
 - ⌚ Theme-Based Discussions
 - ⌚ Role Based Tracks
- ⌚ Proposed Bylaw Amendments
- ⌚ Commission on Social Witness
- ⌚ Your GA Experience and Additional Resources



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2019 Highlights



The Grid



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UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

	Wednesday 6/19	Thursday 6/20	Friday 6/21	Saturday 6/22	Sunday 6/23
7:30 a.m.		Spiritual Practice 7:30 – 8:00	Spiritual Practice 7:30 – 8:00	Spiritual Practice 7:30 – 8:00	
8:00 a.m.					
8:30 a.m.	EXHIBIT HALL HOURS				
9:00 a.m.	WEDNESDAY 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Worship, Opening, Framing 8:30 – 9:30	Worshipful Start 8:30 – 9:00	Worship/Singing 8:30 – 9:00	
9:30 a.m.					
10:00 a.m.	THURSDAY 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.				
10:30 a.m.	FRIDAY 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Role-Based Track Programming 1 10:00 – 12:00	General Session I (Business Meeting) 9:00 – 12:00	Theme Program and Conversations II 9:00 – 12:00	Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 – 11:30
11:00 a.m.					
11:30 a.m.	SATURDAY 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.				
12:00 p.m.	SUNDAY 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Public Witness 12:00 – 1:00 Poster Session 1 12:00 – 1:30	Poster Session 2 12:00 – 1:30	Poster Session 3 12:00 – 1:30	Exhibit Hall 11:30 – 2:30
1:00 p.m.					
1:30 p.m.	GA Orientation Choir Rehearsal 1:30 – 2:30	Workshops 1:30 – 2:30		Workshops 1:30 – 2:30	
2:00 p.m.					
2:30 p.m.					
3:00 p.m.		Workshops 3:00 – 4:00			
3:30 p.m.	GA Youth Orientation YA@GA Orientation 3:00 – 4:30			Theme Program and Conversations I 1:30 – 4:00	
4:00 p.m.					
4:30 p.m.		Workshops 4:30 – 5:30	Synergy Bridging Worship 4:30 – 6:00	General Session II (Business Meeting) 4:30 – 5:30	
5:00 p.m.	Regional Ingatherings 5:00 – 6:00				
5:30 p.m.					
6:00 p.m.					
6:30 p.m.					
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Celebration 7:00 – 8:00	Service of the Living Tradition 7:00 – 8:30	Ware Lecture 7:30 – 8:30	Closing Ceremonies 7:00 – 8:30	
7:30 p.m.					
8:00 p.m.					
8:30 p.m.	Concert 8:30 – 10:00			GA Dance 9:00 – 11:00	
9:00 p.m.					
10:00 p.m.					



Highlights of General Assembly



- ➊ Theme – *The Power of We*
- ➋ Changes to General Sessions
- ➌ Theme-based discussions
- ➍ Role-Based Track programming
- ➎ Workshops, worship, witness, music and celebration – check out the program book

<https://www.uua.org/ga>



General Sessions and General Conference



- ⌚ **General Session** – reports and structured discernment that includes debate and voting
- ⌚ **General Conference** – a series of gatherings and theme-based conversations that enable discernment and collaboration around the key values and fundamentals of Unitarian Universalism



Commission on Institutional Change



The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Commission on Institutional Change is charged with long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism. Appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees in June 2017 and commissioned through GA 2020, the Commission will analyze structural racism and white supremacy culture within the UUA.



The complete summary of the Commission, including the full charge, member bios, and the commission's blog are available on [the UUA website](https://www.uua.org).



Change 10 Critical Areas of Intervention



1. Articulate a theology of liberation, experimentation, and innovation.
2. Ensure quality of livelihood for religious professionals of color.
3. Ensure opportunities for full involvement for UUs of color in the various settings of our faith.
4. Enact mechanisms of accountability and integrity towards shared goals of equity, inclusion, and diversity.
5. Identify and spread examples of innovation of equity, inclusion, and diversity and establish channels of innovation and risk-taking.
6. Design credentialing, hiring and firing practices, and data collection across the Association.
7. Value the knowledge of people of color and other oppressed and undervalued groups.
8. Prioritize and enable leadership from young adults and working age people.
9. Promote healthy and sustainable models of leadership and community life.
10. Ensure that benchmark goals towards inclusion, equity and diversity are reflected through budgets, planning, hiring and promotions, and professional development opportunities.

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Questions?



Theme-Based Discussions



- ⌚ “Redeeming the Promise of our Faith” led by the Commission on Institutional Change
 - ⌚ What sustains you and your faith community in efforts towards inclusion, equity, and diversity?
 - ⌚ What limits you from living out our faith’s promise towards liberation and transformation?
 - ⌚ What should we expect of ourselves and one another in living out our covenantal relationships?

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Theme-Based Discussions



“ “The Heart of Our Faith” led by the UUA Board of Trustees

- ⌚ What from our faith tradition helps guide your life? What in our theology or faith fills your soul?
- ⌚ If you were lifting up one key principle or value in Unitarian Universalism, what would it be?
- ⌚ What must a covenant include to help us live into the world we are in now and for the future?
- ⌚ What’s your personal and our collective commitment and stake to transforming and living out our values and benefits?

The theme-based discussions will occur in small groups at the Convention Center, with the opportunity for virtual attendees to participate as well.

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Role-Based Track Programming



- ➊ Role-based conversations and trainings based on your area of interest
- ➋ Having attendees start and end with the same group gives some continuity, and offers role-relevant content to utilize in their unique context
- ➌ Tracks include topics for congregational leaders, worship, faith development, lay ministry, social justice, and more!

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

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The Business of the Association



Changes in 2019



- ⌚ Shorter General Sessions
- ⌚ Consent Agenda
- ⌚ Slightly modified rules of procedure
- ⌚ Mini-assemblies
- ⌚ Actions of Immediate Witness



Amendment Recap (Consent Agenda)



- ⌚ Bylaw Amendments to sections 5.11 (a) (1), 7.6 (b), 11.3, 11.5, and 11.7 to **changing final fellowship to full fellowship**
- ⌚ Bylaw Amendment to section 5.2 (b) to remove in odd numbered years
- ⌚ Rule G-9.13.1 to **modernize for electronic vote and clarify Election Preparation** by Secretary
- ⌚ Rule G-9.13.2 to modernize for electronic vote and **randomize the Order of Candidate Names** for election
- ⌚ Rule G-9.13.3 to modernize for electronic vote and **remove “on a ballot”**
- ⌚ Rule G-9.13.4 to **provide for mailed paper ballots** in elections
- ⌚ Rule G-9.13.5 to **clarify Voting** at General Assembly
- ⌚ Bylaw amendment to section 9.6 to **increase number of petitions for nominations to 50** congregations from at least 3 of the regions of the Association (this applies to candidacy petitions for UUA President and Moderator *only*)

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Amendment Recap



- ⌚ Bylaw amendment regarding **Ministerial Fellowship Committee makeup** (Section 7.6)
- ⌚ Bylaw amendment regarding **preliminary fellowship** (Section 11.3)
- ⌚ Bylaw amendment regarding **voting and elections** (Sections 9.9, 9.10, 9.11 and Rules G-9.11.1, G-9.11.2, and G-9.11.3)



Mini-Assembly Process



Mini Assembly Basics



- ➊ Mini assemblies serve to **learn** about the specific **details** of the scheduled topic and to propose amendments. They are **not** a place to **debate** the pros and cons of an issue.
- ➋ If you wish to **propose amendments** to a proposed bylaw amendment your proposed amendment(s) must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered at the General Session. *New amendments cannot be made in the General Session.*
- ➌ After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in General Session, the Board may **incorporate proposed amendments** into a Bylaw, and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into Statement of Conscience.
- ➍ There will not be mini-assemblies for Actions of Immediate Witness this year, in accordance with our bylaws change last year.

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Off-Site Delegates



- ➊ Off-site delegate registration provides an alternative way for congregations to participate in the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) when their delegates cannot physically attend General Assembly (GA).
 - Vote online and speak during debate in General Assembly business sessions
 - Listen to discussion and vote during business mini-assemblies.
 - During all business sessions, you will have opportunities to speak (pro, con, and procedure)

- ➋ ***Requirements for off-site delegates can be found on the [UUA Website.](#)***



Responsive Resolution



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➊ What is a responsive resolution?

- Response to a substantive portion of a report during General Assembly. A responsive resolution differs from an AIW, in that it originates from content in the report. It is a resolution made in response to a substantive portion of a *report by an officer or committee* reporting to a regular General Assembly.

➋ Why don't I see any responsive resolutions on the agenda?

- Because they are “responsive,” they are based on information shared during GA

➌ How would I propose a responsive resolution?

- The author of a Responsive Resolution must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of the Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 4:30 PM PT on Friday, June 21 for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in General Session 1.

➍ When are responsive resolutions presented?

- They are presented in General Session II on Saturday afternoon of GA.

Moderator@uua.org

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Questions?

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Commission on Social Witness

Proposed Statement of Conscience

Actions of Immediate Witness

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Commission on Social Witness



Mission: discern and craft a vision for the Association on pressing social issues as a reflection of the values of our faith and the voices from our congregations.

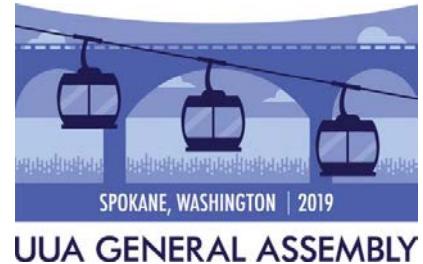
Statement of Conscience (SOC): Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) are issues selected by Unitarian Universalist member congregations for three years of study, reflection, and action. In the third year of this process, delegates at GA can vote to approve a Statement of Conscience (SOC) resulting from three years of congregational feedback on the CSAI. This year's SOC is "Our Democracy Uncorrupted," and can be found on page 66 in the program book.

Action of Immediate Witness (AIW): expresses the conscience and carries the authority of the delegates at the GA at which it is passed. AIWs are initiated by individual delegates and move through their entire creation and adoption process during a single GA.

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Actions of Immediate Witness



Some issues are so immediate that they cannot wait for 3–4 years of study. Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) provide an opportunity to consider such issues. In contrast to a Statement of Conscience, an AIW only carries the authority of the delegates at the one GA during which it is passed.

Thursday

- Proposers submit draft AIWs for posting online and at the CSW booth in Exhibit Hall by 5 PM PT on Thursday. Off site delegates can submit to socialwitness@uua.org. Possible AIW topics and guidance on how to do AIWs are available at <https://www.uua.org/action/process/planning-aiw-ga>



Actions of Immediate Witness



- Starting after the Friday General Session and ending Saturday at 2 PM, delegates will vote online or at the CSW booth to select up to three AIWs to add to the final agenda.
- No collecting of signatures and no chance to amend, so no mini-assemblies.
- At the Saturday General Session there will be 2 votes. The first is to add the 3 top vote getting proposals to the agenda. The second vote is to affirm the proposal into an official AIW. Both votes require a 2/3rd majority.



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Questions?

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YOUR GA EXPERIENCE

Chaplain Team

Right Relationship Team

Safety Team

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Your GA Experience



- ⌚ **Chaplains** are available to all attendees throughout GA to offer spiritual support
 - Parkside Room in the DoubleTree/(617) 948-4244 (24 hrs)
- ⌚ The **Right Relationship Team** exists to listen and engage with people who have experienced any form of oppression or identity based marginalization during GA
 - Evergreen Room in the DoubleTree Hotel / (617) 948-4334
- ⌚ The **Safety Team** is responsible for supporting and modeling community safety at this General Assembly. The team will respond to and intervene in incidents of harm, attend to emotional crises where safety is an issue, and interact with outside agencies including the police towards the safety of convening participants
 - Executive Boardroom in the DoubleTree Hotel

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Additional Information and Resources



Additional Resources



Get ready to grow in faith at General Assembly 2019

- ➊ Prepare to be together
- ➋ Prepare your spirit
- ➌ Prepare to worship
- ➍ Prepare your inner activist
- ➎ Prepare to encounter Spokane

There are dozens of resources to help you prepare! Visit the [GA website](#) get ready. And bring your water bottle, and comfortable shoes!

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Thank you for participating!



- ⌚ Download the GA app on your mobile device for up-to-the-minute information.

- [iTunes App Store](#) (for iPhones and iPads)
You can also search “UUA General Assembly” in the app store.
- [Google Play](#) (for Android devices)
You can also search “UUA General Assembly” in the app store.
- [For all other devices](#)

- ⌚ Recorded webinar and this presentation will be posted on the General Assembly Delegate Information webpage.

- ⌚ Welcome to Spokane!

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Final questions?

Please evaluate the webinar:

www.tinyurl.com/uuaweb19