

Reimagining Governance Working Group

January 23, 2016

1. Delegate Scholarship Fund. In support of the Board initiative to provide scholarship assistance to youth, young adults, people of color and those from historically marginalized communities who attend General Assembly as delegates, the GAPC has allocated \$42,000 for scholarship registration (effectively covering registration costs for up to 120 delegates). This is a one year experiment.

Gifts received by the Delegate Scholarship Fund as of January 6 (including pledges) were at \$26061. The Board has met the matching funds challenge from the Jerry and Denny Davidoff Fund for Lay Leadership, which has generously increased its assistance to \$7000. These funds (net of administrative fees) may be applied to travel assistance for scholarship recipients.

Applications for these delegate scholarship funds will be made available March 1st, as part of a unified General Assembly Scholarship Application, which also includes applications for GAPC matching grants and Youth and Young Adults grants. The congregation will be expected to underwrite some of the travel expenses in conjunction with other funding sources that might be available in districts or regions.

The Board is obligated to provide a pre-GA webinar for scholarship recipients that will prepare scholarship delegates for their responsibilities, orient them to the process, and support them during GA. This is in addition to the webinar that the Board has offered the past two years discussing the business items of General Assembly.

Delegate Discussion at GA 2016. One of the Working Group's goals for GA 2016 is a break-out session for delegates on issues important to congregations and to the future of the Association. All 18 breakout rooms at GA 2016 have been reserved from 10:30 to 12:00 on Friday, June 24 (during General Session time.) Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie has

generously agreed to assist in formulating the content and discussion materials for these sessions, inspired by the work of the “Renewing the Covenant” Task Force. I understand she will briefly discuss her thoughts on the content during her report on Friday morning.

The WG anticipates a training session at GA for 36 facilitators on Wednesday, June 22, at 1:30 p.m. immediately following the Board meeting. Jim Key and I are in conversation with 2 UU consultants (we have not yet engaged them) on facilitation of the training sessions and structuring the conversations. We anticipate that an immediate report on the discussions could be presented to the delegates on Sunday with a full written report to delegates and congregations to follow.

Board Discussion: Questions for the Renewing the Covenant Task Force.

Susan Ritchie will report to the Board on Friday on the work of the Renewing the Covenant Task Force. The Task Force’s findings may have implications for the structure of the UUA and its constituencies. Drawing on her initial report, the Working Group will invite the Board to consider what questions we should ask from the Task Force, as part of its final report, regarding concrete steps forward to realize its vision.