



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

What to Expect at GA 2017

A UUA Board of Trustees Webinar



What to Expect at GA 2017










Presenters:

- 🕯 Denise Rimes, Trustee and UUA Vice Moderator
- 🕯 Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Trustee and UUA Secretary
- 🕯 Greg Boyd, Trustee
- 🕯 Dr. Susan Goekler, Chair of the Commission on Social Witness
- 🕯 Steven Ballesteros, Right Relationship Co-Chair
- 🕯 Hannah Roberts Villnave, Right Relationship Co-Chair

Agenda



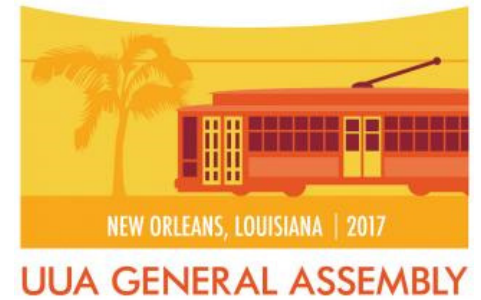
-  Introduction (Agenda and Attendee Tools)
-  Highlights of This Year – Resist and Rejoice
-  Importance of Mini-Assembly Process
-  Proposed Bylaw Amendments
-  Statement of Conscience
-  Right Relationship Team
-  Additional Resources



Attendee Tools



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



Greg Boyd

Highlights of General Sessions



Highlights of General Assembly



- 🕯 Theme – *Resist and Rejoice*
- 🕯 [Pre-GA Racial Justice Training](#)
- 🕯 [2017 Service Projects](#)
- 🕯 General Sessions for the business of the Association
- 🕯 Workshops, worship, witness, music and celebration – check out the [preliminary agenda](#)



2017 Service Projects



In the [Big Easy / Real Life: An Immersion Experience](#)^{*}, participants will work on a rebuilding project that helps families displaced by Hurricane Katrina, or recent tornado, to return home.

**registration is required*



2017 Service Projects



[The Red Flame Hunters](#)* and the Flaming Chalice Keepers Create! Members of the unique all-youth Black Mardi Gras Indian Tribe will share the history of their art and celebrations and demonstrate how they create their performances and costumes rich with beadwork and feathers.

**registration is required*



2017 Service Projects



[Ubuntu Village](#)* and UUs, Embracing Youth Away in Juvenile Detention. Ubuntu Village is an organization whose program areas comprise many services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

**registration is required*



2017 Service Projects



[“Days for Girls”](#)* Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene Kits fight Poverty and Isolation. An assembly line of volunteers will package kits to distribute to girls in New Orleans and around the world.

**registration is required*



2017 Service Projects



Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children Participants will send postcards and personal messages in other formats to incarcerated children and incarcerated members of Church of the Larger Fellowship in Louisiana and around the country.



Highlights of General Sessions



- 🕒 Bylaw-required reports
- 🕒 Discussion and vote on bylaw changes and a Statement of Conscience
- 🕒 Centering the needs of our diverse community



Denise Rimes

Mini-Assembly Process



Shared Vision - Global Ends



A healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.



Mini Assembly Basics



- 🕒 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.
- 🕒 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.*
- 🕒 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.



Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs

Proposed Bylaw Amendments



Amendment Text



Two separate petitions proposing changes to Article II, Section C-2.1 Principles and Purposes were successfully submitted to be included in the 2017 General Assembly Business Agenda. The amendments can be found on page 84 of your [program book](#)

- ⊕ **Change “every person” to ‘every being’** This proposed change affirms explicitly that individuals of other species merit our compassionate consideration. *The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in Convention Center 210.* For reference material: [click here](#)
- ⊕ **Change “prophetic men and women” to “prophetic people”** This proposed change will move from women and men gender binary language to reflect more gender neutral and inclusive terminology. *The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 3:15 p.m. in Convention Center 210.*

Amendments to either of the recommended bylaws changes may be introduced only as proposed at the Mini-Assemblies.



Study Commission



- ⌕ After discussion of the two bylaw amendments, we are likely to construct a study commission
- ⌕ Article II of our bylaws are frequently amended via a commission
- ⌕ The study commission reviews input from proposers, mini-assembly, speakers, etc. to make sure all viewpoints are considered. May also consider other related changes
- ⌕ Study commission brings back its recommendations to next General Assembly where more input is gathered, and an initial vote is taken on study commission's recommendations



Questions?



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Dr. Susan Goekler

Proposed Statement of Conscience



Statement of Conscience-Escalating Inequality



- ⊕ Delegates will consider a motion to adopt the Statement of Conscience on “Escalating inequality.”
- ⊕ Issue was selected by delegates in 2014 for 4 years of study and action. Each year since then, calls have gone out soliciting ideas from congregations.
- ⊕ As a result, the Commission on Social Witness created an initial draft statement last fall and sent it to congregations for comment.
- ⊕ Based on that feedback, the CSW drafted a revised Statement, which is the version in the Business Agenda.



Proposed Statement of Conscience



- ⌚ One more opportunity to propose changes to the Statement -- at a *Mini-Assembly on the Statement of Conscience on **Thursday, June 22, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in Convention Center 222.***
- ⌚ ***Amendments may be introduced only as proposed at the Mini-Assembly; they may not be proposed on the floor of the General session unless first proposed at the mini-assembly.***
- ⌚ At the Mini-assembly, delegates may propose specific amendments. A complete re-write is not in order. Those present will consider the suggestions. The CSW might conduct straw polls when a clear consensus is not evident.
- ⌚ After the mini-assembly, the Commission on Social Witness will meet and consider all the suggestions.
 - ⌚ CSW will accept some and incorporate them into a revised Statement.
 - ⌚ Revised Statement published in a *CSW Alert* on Saturday, available on the GA app. The *CSW Alert* will also list all the proposed changes that the CSW did not accept as “unincorporated amendments.”



Proposed Statement of Conscience



- ⊕ At the Saturday General Session, there will be 1 hour for discussion and vote
- ⊕ There will also be an opportunity to recommend acceptance of unincorporated amendments or to remove incorporated amendments (i.e. the suggested changes the CSW did incorporate)
- ⊕ The process for speaking is outlined in the Rules of Procedure that will be in your GA program book
- ⊕ If there are a lot of unincorporated amendments, the time will probably not allow all of them to be considered.
 - ⊕ The CSW prioritizes the unincorporated amendments and people who want to propose an amendment are allowed to do so in the order of priority in the CSW Alert



Further Information



Proposed Statement of Conscience is included in the Business Agenda

- 🕯 Draft Statement of Conscience is on the UUA Website: <https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/draftsoc2017.pdf>
- 🕯 Social Justice webpages: <http://www.uua.org/statements/process/guide>



Questions?



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Steven Ballesteros
Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave } *Co-Chairs*

Right Relationship Team



Right Relationship Team



- 🕊️ The Right Relationship Team exists to listen to and engage with people who want to share their experiences while at General Assembly
- 🕊️ Eager to hear stories of kindness and empathy, as well as stories of oppression or hurt at General Assembly.
- 🕊️ Contact us any time during GA



Additional Resources



Prepare to Resist and Rejoice with these tools

- ⊕ **Watch** [10 Years after Katrina: Resilience, Recovery, and Reality](#)
- ⊕ **Read and share** [Rising](#), a poem by Asia Rainey for the [Gulf South Rising](#) delegation to the Paris climate talks
- ⊕ **Listen to** [From Paris: Houma Chief Seeks Support for his Tribe](#) a New Orleans Public Radio report from the Paris climate talks (4:21) [United Houma Nation](#)
- ⊕ **Take a tour:**
 - [New Orleans Hidden History](#) tour. Black-owned business; [walking tours](#) of sites related to African American experience in the French Quarter. Also [bus tours](#).
 - [Whitney Plantation](#), about 45 minutes outside the city. *UU World* [article](#).
- ⊕ **Share** [children's books](#) in your congregation or home.
- ⊕ **Read** *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans* by Don Brown (2015, HMH Books for Young Readers) Non-fiction, graphic novel format. Grades 7 and older.



Thank you for participating!



- 🕒 Recorded webinar will be posted on the General Assembly Delegate Information webpage.
- 🕒 Welcome to GA New Orleans!



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](#)



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