

## **WSUU GA Delegate Policy**

As we, as a congregation and faith, evolve and grow, we continually root ourselves in acting our faith and love into the world through service and justice. As such, we seek to improve economic accessibility, multi-generation participation, and decision making, as well as awareness and inclusiveness of antiracism, antiracist, multicultural concerns as being vital to the health and sustainability of our faith and congregation moving forward. We are centering those who have been historically marginalized in our decision and policy making. This revised policy on how we as a congregation nominate, support and collaborate with our General Assembly (GA) delegate process is a movement in that direction.

The Nominations Committee will use its process to select and bring forward a slate of GA delegates for the congregation to vote on by midspring. Each year's delegate team will be a combination of delegates from the previous year and new delegates. The number of delegates is determined by the UUA each year based on the number of congregants reported in Jan/Feb of each year. The slate will include at least one alternate delegate who can serve if someone is unable to or if the membership numbers increase enough for more delegates to be needed.

The purpose of the list of delegate commitments is to inform potential delegates that WSUU expects delegates to take their role seriously. It is not intended to exclude people who cannot fulfill each and every commitment from serving as a delegate. We recognize that a two-year commitment may not be feasible for everyone. Each year, the delegate team should work together to ensure coverage at all the sessions and to commit to providing a summary of action items for any delegate who cannot attend a session because of work or other pressing commitments.

### **Congregational Commitments to Delegates**

- Pay registration costs for remote attendance at GA starting with Spring 2020.
- Consider most equitable financial solutions to send all delegates to GA in person when held in the western United States.
- Encourage previous GA delegate members of the team to share knowledge.
- Promote "Coffee Hour" conversations before GA for delegates to connect with members about relevant GA topics.
- Provide support to delegates by connecting them with previous delegates before GA, offering pastoral care during and after GA, and a post GA current delegate debrief meeting facilitated by the minister.
- Encourage connections and offer support around identity to delegates who hold marginalized identities before, during and after GA.

### **Delegate commitments to congregation**

#### **Pre GA**

- Write a position piece as part of the nominating process so that the congregation can get to know them.

- Commit to serving as a delegate for two consecutive years. One as a first time delegated then a second year as an experienced delegetate to assist and orient new delegates to process.
- Research and inform self regarding upcoming GA issues and topics.
- Tabling after services for designated Sundays leading up to GA to discuss issues and get input from congregants.

#### During GA

- Attend all general and business meetings of GA representing Westside
- Attend sessions that are identified by congregants during pre GA discussions, as delegates are able.

#### Post GA

- Give a testimonial in service and/or participate in a service together with the entire delegate team.
- Write an article for Westside Week regarding experience at General Assembly.
- Share experience and knowledge with newer delegates.

#### Sources:

- *Widening the Circle of Concern June 2020 UUA Commission on Institutional Change* <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>
- *Fifth Principle Task Force Report to the UUA Board of Trustees December 2009* [https://www.uua.org/files/documents/boardtrustees/5thprinciple/0912\\_report.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/documents/boardtrustees/5thprinciple/0912_report.pdf)
- *How Congregations Are Represented at General Assembly / Delegates* <https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations>

#### Resources:

- Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly <https://www.uua.org/ga>
- Black Live of Unitarian UNiversalism (BLUU) <https://www.blacklivesuu.com/>
- Transgender Religious Professional Unitarian Universalists Together (TRUUST) <https://transuu.org/>
- Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Ministeries (DRUUM) <http://druumm.org/>
- EqUUal Access <http://www.equalaccess.org/>