

## UUCB Member Takeaways from the 2021 General Assembly

Such as: Ideas from other congregations or faith leaders, UUA business matters/resolutions, insights on UU-ism, emerging trends, what's applicable to UUCB, etc

[From Melissa]

Question for immediate consideration for the Board:

- Per the Responsive Resolution, General Assembly 2021 titled "Creating a More Just Future Through Divesting from Pipelines and Investing in Young People" the UUA Common Endowment Fund (CEF) is currently invested in companies involved in fossil-fuels and funding the Line 3 pipeline. Investing in these companies does not uphold our values. Should the UUCB Endowment Fund divest from the CEF? As an investor, should UUCB be in dialogue with the CEF to pressure for divestment? This is something the Endowment Committee should look into.

Opportunities for UUCB to engage with issues at the UUA:

### Article II Study Commission

- Engage with questions/workshops/resources from the [Article II Study Commission](#) and check this page regularly to see updates and opportunities to give feedback.
- There are votes on Article II coming up at the 2023 and 2024 GA. UUCB has an opportunity to prepare for these votes by getting congregational input ahead of time. Requires a team to keep apprised of the information coming from the UUA about Article II
  - Checking GA business agenda, it is usually not final until just before GA, but a draft might be posted earlier ([uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga))
  - Checking the [Article II Study Commission](#)'s page to see if they have released any reports and to see what the commission's GA offerings will be
  - Perhaps attending a UUA Board of Trustees open house meeting in the spring, where plans for GA and votes might be discussed, in order to get information. [Meeting dates](#) for the next year have already been set.
  - Coordinate a time/method to get congregational input about the upcoming votes.
- The Pacific Central District (PCD) of which UUCB is a member congregation, has plans to recruit volunteers to get member congregation feedback about Article II, in order to send that feedback to the Study Commission over this next year. We could actively engage with and support this effort.
- Pair conversations about Article II with our already planned congregational conversations about the 8th Principle. The commission has released [statements](#) about how their work is engaging with the 8th Principle.

### Commission on Social Witness (CSW)

- In order to increase engagement and transparency, the CSW is planning to have covenenings in fall and spring to connect congregations to the work around Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs). Congregations commit to engaging with the Actions of

Immediate Witness that are affirmed by the General Assembly. This commitment comes through the delegates who represented the congregation in their vote for the AIWs. The 3 AIWs affirmed at this year's General Assembly are:

- Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities
  - The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice.Healing.Courage.
  - Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy
- There is an opportunity for UUCB to liaison with the CSW through these convenings, perhaps through our Social Justice Council? It would require a team to monitor the [CSW page](#), and/or sign up for their [mailing list](#) to get the information about how/when the convenings will happen.

### Ideas

- Idea from Sofia Fahs lecture "BIPOC YaYA (**B**lack, **I**ndigenous, and **P**eople of **C**olor **Y**outh and **Y**oung **A**dult) Leaders": we need to cultivate spaces OUTSIDE our RE classrooms that minister to our children and youth. Not everyone feels comfortable in a class but they still want to be loved and cared for at church. My ideas for these types of spaces:
  - Library - at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, there is a dedicated children's library, with books you can check out and soft chairs and window seats to sit in. My child would ALWAYS want to visit the library. He felt comfortable and safe there and it made going to church extra pleasant.
  - Cozy spaces - having a group of couches or soft chairs gathered where youth can hang out together. Before the pandemic, we had this set up in the social hall, which is great because the youth can gather, but also be adjacent to the rest of the congregation. This gives chances for intergenerational interaction, as well as grounding the youth as integral to the church, rather than separate from it (always off in a separate room or building).
  - Outdoor spaces - the field and the picnic tables directly outside of the field serve as nice outdoor spaces for gathering together or sitting quietly.
- Having a "Denominational Affairs" or "General Assembly" team would be very helpful if UUCB would like to be more engaged with the national movement. I think that online events will continue to some extent, which increases the chances for attendance.
  - We had between 20-30 congregants attend the national New Day Rising Conference, February 2021.
  - Somewhere around 10 congregants (I think?) who attended the Pacific Western Regional Assembly, February 2021.
  - 2 congregants attended the Pacific Central District annual meeting, June 2021.
  - 24 congregants and 3 staff members who attended General Assembly, June 2021.

From those numbers, it seems clear to me that UUCB has interest in engaging with the wider UU community. However, it takes time and energy to keep the congregation apprised of events and opportunities during the year. Also, there are ways to increase

the financial accessibility of attending such events if you plan ahead for them - fundraising, sharing rooms/rides, gifting hotel points and airline miles to attendees, etc.

- I have MANY ideas for UUCB Moves group
- Several things to pass on to the Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force
- Several ideas for worship, which I will speak to Rev Michelle and the WAs about