

Off-site GA Planning Team - Minutes – April 19, 2011

Present: Mark Steinwinter, Linda Laskowski, Randy Becker, Don Plante, Lew Phinney, Larry Stritof, Eva Marx

Absent: Lynda Shannon

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26, Noon Eastern Time

Update on applicants: 33 applicants. The Persony chat log below lists their locations. To increase participation by traditionally under-represented districts, we will recruit congregations. Randy will contact district executives to identify likely congregations. Linda and Eva will contact the congregations.

GA Planning Committee. Mark has spoken with Beth McGregor and Tim Murphy and has plans to speak with Jerry Gaynor. He will speak with Jerry about how the job of phone tellers will be different, what tellers need to know, and how to craft teller training. Beth and Tim wanted to know who would own the offsite process in the future. We assume that the current task force will end. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to decide whether the process will continue.

Mark reported that the GAPC members expressed a concern about the GA Accountability Group not being supportive of offsite delegate participation at GA 2012. Linda will check with the group but had not found this to be a general group concern when she spoke with Leslie Takahashi Morris several months ago. There was a concern expressed by an AG member that off-site delegates would allow "the same suspects" who went year after year to continue to be delegates even when they could not physically attend. Linda spoke directly to this person -- they are part of a large congregation that sends a full contingent to GA every year, usually the same people.

Audio-bridge. It will be needed for voting. Cost of toll-free call is \$.08/minute/caller=approximately \$5/hour, which would equal approximately \$50, if we assume 10 hours of use. This would equal the cost of registration. However, it is unlikely that each delegate will stay on the phone the entire 10 hours. Is there is an option for people whose phones do not charge for long distance to call a separate number? Mark will follow up on this.

Need to let people know what offsite delegate participation is costing the UUA. Mark

pointed out that the Board authorized \$75,000 for this effort. He expects to Charlotte trial to cost less than half of what has been budgeted. No other identified cost unless CMI comes up with something. Although there is no formal policy, he expects anticipated recurring costs to equal anticipated recurring income from offsite delegate registration in the future, in other words, self-sustaining.

Review of deliverables. Reviewed the acceptance e-mail. There will be an online portal page where delegates can obtain necessary information. E-mail address for questions is offsitega@uua.org

Reviewed cover letter for delegate packet. Packet will be available May 2.

Need to talk about whether to include the chat line when Randy is on the call.

Final agenda will be available online late May.

Will review user guide on next call.

Persony chat log.

Larry sends a message "web cam not setup - one sec. "

00:31:19

Don sends a message "Applicants by state, city "

00:31:22

Don sends a message "Prescott AZ Chino Valley AZ Sahuarita AZ Victoria BC Santa Paula CA Palo Alto CA Visalia CA Novato CA Hamden CT Hartford CT Bloomfield CT Key West FL Buffalo Grove IL Brewster MA Framingham MA Lancaster MA Melrose MA Columbia MD Auburn ME Hope MI Midland MI Nashua NH Nashua NH Woodcliff Lake NJ Round Lake NY White Plains NY Rochester NY Marietta OH Coos Bay ORPittsburgh PA DALLAS TX Tacoma WA Port Townsend WA "