

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

UUA VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION & GA APPLICATION

IMPORTANT CHANGES – PLEASE READ COMPLETELY!

Our UUCSR Denominational Affairs Committee [DAC] is charged with creating these guidelines for Shelter Rock's participation in the annual Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly. The UUA has decided that the 2024 GA will be 100% virtual. The 2025 GA will be a multi-platform event, both virtual and in-person, in Baltimore, MD.

About the 2024 UUA VIRTUAL General Assembly

The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly [GA] is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across North America. These guidelines have been created by The Denominational Affairs Committee [DAC] and approved by our UUCSR Board of Trustees. The 2024 General Assembly will be a virtual (on-line) event from Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23. [Note: the 2024 GA is a four-day event!] UUCSR members have the opportunity to participate virtually at home on their computer or other device connected to the internet. There are on-line workshops, lectures and discussions where attendees learn and explore the issues that interest and motivate UUs. Worship services provide opportunities to experience worship in many different forms. Our delegates are rewarded with a greater vision of who and what we are as a religious group. GA inspires and motivates us to be more active in our own congregation and on the district and denominational levels.

At the GA, delegates from UU congregations meet in general sessions and smaller "mini-assemblies," to conduct the business of the UUA and decide the course of action the denomination will follow during the next year and into the future. Delegates participate in discussions and vote.

The delegate selection process detailed below will be followed for the 2024 GA. The Virtual GA registration fee of \$200.00 per delegate will be covered 100% by our DAC budget. UUCSR's Delegates are expected to (a) have access to a device capable of signing into the UUA GA website; (b) attend GA orientation meetings scheduled before GA; (c) attend all general sessions; (d) keep a daily log of all events attended.

General Assembly Delegate Attendees and Selection Process

The UUCSR virtual delegates at the GA participate in discussions and vote at General Sessions. The number of UUCSR delegates is based upon the total membership number reported to the UUA as of December 31, 2023. Shelter Rock members submit their application [attached] to the Denominational Affairs Committee [DAC]; a DAC Delegate Selection Subcommittee processes the applications and creates a delegate list. This delegate list is then reviewed by the full Denominational Affairs Committee and forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The UUCSR Delegation has traditionally consisted of the Chair of DAC, who serves as coordinator of the delegation, a member of the Board of Trustees – usually the President or President-

elect of the Congregation, and **delegates-at-large** from the Congregation drawing from wide areas of Congregational life; for example, Religious Education, Social Justice, Worship, and Women's Group (all of whom are considered **delegates at-large** in addition to her/his area of special interest). The youth of the Congregation are represented by one Youth Delegate and two non-voting Youth Observers. Youth may apply on their own or be recommended to DAC by the R.E. Committee. The Committee will give preference to candidates who have not served as delegates in the past.

Young Adults

In recent years our congregation has encouraged our Young Adult members to attend GA. A **young adult**, defined for UUCSR GA purposes, is an 18-year-old (a) not in, or no longer in, the UUCSR R.E. Program, (b) no longer in high school, and (c) has been a member of UUCSR for a minimum of two years; they shall be eligible for delegate status consideration. For delegate status, young adults are considered in the same category as adult members.

Alternate Delegates

Over the years DAC has developed a formula for selecting Alternate Delegates. An alternate will be available to take over a delegate's role if the need arises **prior** to the beginning of GA. Persons approved for the alternate list will become funded to attend the GA if called upon to fill a delegate vacancy. Alternates will only be called upon **before** the start of GA.

Criteria for funding; Selection of Delegates

All members of UUCSR interested in being considered for delegate status are required to complete the attached Application for General Assembly 2024. All UUCSR members wishing to attend GA for the first time are also eligible for funding for GA Registration. All UUCSR delegates must have been a member of UUCSR for two years. The membership requirement commences June 1st, two years prior to the submission of the application. UUCSR's youth delegate and observer(s) must be members of UUCSR, but the two-year requirement is waived. Two members of the same household attending GA may not be delegates. Two members of the same household may not receive funding; however, one member may be funded as a Delegate and another funded as a Youth Delegate or Youth Observer. A **Youth Delegate/Observer** is defined as a member of the congregation (a) registered in the UUCSR Religious Education [R.E.] program, and (b) recommended by a minister and/or the R.E. Committee to serve as a youth delegate/observer. No more than one youth delegate/observer may be funded from the same household. A youth **not** in the R.E. program shall have the opportunity to be considered a youth delegate/observer upon application to the R.E. Committee or the Denominational Affairs Committee.

Other criteria for selection as a UUCSR Delegate include:

- Evidence of participation in Congregational life by attending Sunday worship services, serving on committees or boards, and participating in Congregational meetings, and other events.
- Evidence of interest in the denomination by attending denominational related activities at UUCSR, the Long Island Area Council [LIAC], and/or Regional and other UU related organizations.

Every effort will be made to recommend candidates who have never, or seldom, been funded to attend GA with the exception of the Chair of the Denominational Affairs Committee and the delegate representing the Board of Trustees.

Expectations of Delegates

Prior to the beginning of GA, all delegates are expected to be knowledgeable of all issues that they will be expected to deal with at GA including discussions and actions on UUA Article II, CSAIs [Congregational Study Action Issues], AIWs [Actions of Immediate Witness], and agenda items that will need to be acted on at GA. Information regarding these items can be found on the UUA website www.uua.org/ga and in the printed materials sent to the delegates or distributed at UUCSR's GA Zoom Orientation meetings. Additional opportunities to gain information will be scheduled for delegates. In preparation for GA, all attendees are expected to attend at least one pre-GA orientation meeting to receive said information regarding the issues to be presented at GA, the process of the General Sessions, and receive information as to how to "navigate" the daily events and programs scheduled. Also, all delegates are expected to help plan and participate in a worship service or program in which we celebrate our participation at GA. All delegates are also expected to write a report through which their GA experiences and reactions are shared with our congregation. Reports must be submitted by a date to be announced.

Delegates are expected to attend all four days of GA - beginning with the Opening Ceremony, all general sessions, mini-assemblies (as necessary), and other related sessions *including the final general session and the closing ceremony*. Once the GA has begun, a delegate who learns that they are not able to attend the entire GA must notify the DAC Chair (head of our GA Delegation) as soon as abbreviated attendance becomes known.

Registration with the UUA

All UUCSR delegates will be registered for GA 2024 via the Shelter Rock Finance Office. **Delegates will not need to register themselves for GA.** All members wishing to participate as **non-delegates** must register themselves on the UUA website beginning March 1.

UUCSR GA 2024 Funding Policy

Every effort is being made by DAC, our Finance Office and our COA to make our GA experience a smooth and enjoyable event. Great care has been invested in keeping the process as simple as possible for our GA attendees. The recommended changes in the DAC GA Guidelines were reviewed by DAC and have received approval by our UUCSR Board of Trustees. Delegate application deadline for GA 2024 is February 1, 2024.

1. All UUCSR delegates will be registered for GA 2024 via the Shelter Rock Finance Office. UUCSR will cover **100%** of each delegate's Virtual GA registration. **Delegates will not need to register for GA in person.** Delegates will supply the UUCSR finance office with necessary information regarding their GA Registration (name, address, phone, cell phone).
2. Any UUCSR member wishing to attend the 2024 virtual GA as non-delegate is requested to complete the attached application by February 1st and **self**-register for GA 2024 on-line with the UUA starting March 1, 2024. (www.uua.org/ga)
3. **First-time** UUCSR members (non-delegates) who are registering on their own will be reimbursed for 100% of their **virtual** GA registration fee. It is their responsibility to attend a pre-GA orientation **Zoom** meeting in May or June. **All other UUCSR 2024 GA attendees (non-delegates) will not be eligible for registration reimbursement.**

As noted above, all members of UUCSR who wish to attend GA are requested to complete the GA application form (attached). Please place completed applications in the DAC GA Applications Collection Box on the Welcome Desk in the main lobby, snail mail it to UUCSR, attention Sharyn Esposito, or scan and email it to sesposito@uucsr.org

All Delegates will be notified that they are registered for the 2024 GA.

More information can be obtained on the UUA GA website:

<https://uua.org/ga>

Approved by the UUCSR BOT: November 16, 2023

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

APPLICATION FOR THE 2024 VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday June 20 through Sunday 23, 2024

Applications due no later than February 1, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

How long have you been a member of UUCSR? _____

Have you been a member of another UU Congregation? (Y/N) _____ If yes, please tell us the congrega-
tion(s) and the year(s) of affiliation: _____

How often do you attend Sunday Worship at UUCSR? _____

Tell us your current committee/ leadership involvement: _____

Past committee/leadership activities: _____

Other UU interests or activities: _____

Have you attended/participated in District or other UU activities: (Y/N) If yes, where and when?

Have you attended GA in the past? (Y/N) _____ Where and when with funding:

Where and when at your own expense: _____

▶ I wish to attend GA as a **Virtual Delegate** (Y/N) _____

▶ **First-time GA Virtual Attendee**: (non-delegate) (Y/N) _____

▶ I wish to attend GA as a **Virtual Youth Delegate** (Y/N) _____ virtual Youth Observer (Y/N) _____

▶ **I am attending the 2024 Virtual GA on my own as a non-delegate** (Y/N) _____

If you are selected to be funded as a delegate or funded in any other way you must be prepared to:

- **Attend pre-GA orientation Zoom meeting(s) at UUCSR**
- **Attend the entire virtual GA – June 20 through June 24 [opening thru closing]**
- **Attend all general sessions and other events required of Delegates**
- **Submit a written report of your GA activities/experiences by September 1, 2024**
- **Participate in post-GA activities at UUCSR**

I have read the accompanying material and am ready, willing, and able to perform all the duties as a virtual delegate or attendee at the 2024 General Assembly as outlined above:

(Signed) _____ (Date) _____