

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – A MEETING OF CONGREGATIONS

June 24-28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah

UU's Meeting in Salt Lake City?

You know it's not all white, all Mormon, conservative and definitely not boring. Well, a bit conservative, but Salt Lake City chose Barack Obama over John McCain in 08!

- 39.4% of residents are non-white
- a majority are non-Mormon
- Restaurants, clubs, music, the opera, symphony, ballet -- really great night life (really!) and a vacation wonderland nearby (Zion, Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon)
- Getting around SLC on TREN -- the light rail system in the convention district is a breeze and the airport is just minutes away from the Salt Palace Convention Center.
- Salt Lake City boasts three openly gay or lesbian state legislators and one of the largest gay pride marches in the West. They want and need our presence at GA!

Who's Coming to GA in Salt Lake City?

We know for sure that UUA Presidential Candidates **Rev. Laurel Hallman** <http://www.hallmanforuuapresident.com> and **Rev. Peter Morales** <http://www.moralesforuuapresident.org> will be hoping that you come to engage in the process of electing the new leadership of our Association. And tons of UUs will be there to honor the presidency and 8 years of the inspiring leadership of **Rev. Bill Sinkford**. UUs from more than 500 congregations from across our continent and around the world will be there waiting for **Moderator Gini Courter** to drop the gavel (or is that pound the gavel?) There

will be authors (**Beacon Press** and **Skinner House**) and singers (**Ysaye Barnwell**), and thought leaders like **William F. Schulz**, **Sharon Welch**, and **Richard Gilbert** and well as the comedian **Kate Clinton** for when we need a laugh.

What's Happening at GA `09?

Besides the **Election** and the **Ware Lecture** (Melissa Harris-Lacewell <http://www.melissaharrislacewell.com>) and the opportunities for **Congregational Presidents Networking**, and the **GA Choir** singing at **Sunday Morning Worship**, and **The Service of the Living Tradition**, and all of the **Youth Programming** (including their **Open Mic** on Saturday night) on Thursday we'll have a **film night** to wrap up a day of amazing programs, and on Friday a **Dance** for us GA folks and, by invitation, **members of the SLC GLBT community**.

There will be workshops and programs, and the two **CSW Study Action Issues** (Peacemaking and Ethical Eating) and those fabulous booths in the **Exhibit Hall**, and the **Interfaith Social Witness Event** in downtown on Friday focusing on **Immigration Issues**, and the opening **Banner Parade** and having too many **wonderful programs to choose from**.

The whole Salt Lake City area is a vacation destination for families of all ages and sizes so come before GA or stay after Closing Worship to tour. This region of the country is too wonderful not to explore.

As if all of the above were not enough, this year there is even more. The type of programming that once was available only at an extra cost pre-GA, **UU University**, is now an integral part of GA programming. There will be focused tracks on **stewardship, multi-generational** and **multi-cultural ministry, leadership, justice and mission** and **theology** which will allow GA registrants greater opportunities than ever before to network and engage in topics in much greater depth within the designated tracks. Check it out on the GA 2009 Grid:

<http://www.uua.org/documents/gaoffice/grid.pdf>

I'm Sold, How do I Start?

Pre-Registration runs from March 2, through April 30. Go to www.uua.org.

Read more about the details of GA 2009 at:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

Rev. 3/16/09

Lynda Shannon Bluestein