

## How to Get Planning Committee Sponsorship at General Assembly 2007

Dear Friends in the Metro NY District,

I want to tell you how you can get a program, workshop or performance presented at GA 2007 in Portland.

The first thing to note is the looming deadline of **August 31** for submitting applications for **Planning Committee Sponsored Featured Presentations** at GA in Portland. Just hold that thought for a minute.

Congregations can present workshops at GA in one of two ways: 1) through District sponsorship; or 2) through Planning Committee Sponsorship. Each **District** can select **up to two** congregational showcase workshops to sponsor at GA. The **Planning Committee sponsors 15 programs** and several of them come with funding. Let me tell you the difference between District and PC sponsorship.

This past GA in **St. Louis**, the **Metro NY District** sponsored **two workshops**, one on how one congregation (the Unitarian Church in Westport (CT)) developed its **social action committee into a social justice Council**, and one on how our District's **Chalice Lighters program** works. These are nuts and bolts congregation/district sharing of best practices. If your congregation would like to obtain District sponsorship for a workshop, contact [Andrea Lerner](#) or [Calvin Dame](#).

**Featured Presentations sponsored by the Planning Committee** are bigger, or perhaps of broader interest, featuring high profile speakers. In GAs past, Featured Presentations have included lectures like **Rabbi Harold Kushner** ("Why Bad Things Happen to Good People"), **Robert Reich** ("Reason: Why Liberals Will Win the Battle for America"), and **Dr. George Lakoff** from outside UU circles, to Revs. **Forrest Church** (*American Creed*) and **William Schulz** (Human Rights).

So – you want to have some really amazing speaker or moving theatrical performance receive Planning Committee Sponsorship at GA in Portland? **These are the steps that you need to take to apply for Planning Committee Sponsorship:**

- 1) Go to our website <http://www.uua.org/ga/>. This page is titled **Application Guidelines for Planning Committee Sponsored Featured Presentations**.
- 2) This will take you to a link for the **Application** itself at [http://www.uua.org/ga/ga07/PC\\_Featured\\_App.pdf](http://www.uua.org/ga/ga07/PC_Featured_App.pdf)
- 3) Figure out which **congregation(s)** or **organization(s)** would be the best ones **to propose** the speaker/performance. A **single contact person** will need to complete all the materials requested.

*I can tell you that this coming year we will be looking at program descriptions that highlight Unitarian Universalism's antiracism/anti-oppression commitment, and programs will speak to our theme, "Choices that Matter."*

*(continued)*

4) Get supporting **congregations** to submit **letters of support** (up to three additional congregations) and **get that package to Boston by the deadline of August 31.**

Good Luck! I hope to be on the receiving end of a stunning application from you.

In faith,

Lynda Shannon Bluestein  
General Assembly Planning Committee