

One-Page Guide to General Assembly 2018

June 20-24, Bartle Hall, Kansas City

(Some of this information is based on the 2017 GA and will be updated. Registration costs are correct for 2018).

[General Assembly](#) is the Unitarian Universalist Association's annual convention to discuss and vote on the business of the denomination. It is more than that. It is an opportunity to be part of a gathering of 3-4,000 Unitarian Universalists. To worship and sing Spirit of Life with them, and attend workshops on most aspects of congregational life. And to buy stuff in the [Exhibit Hall](#). And to witness really good worship. And simply to meet other UUs and talk about things your congregations are doing and how they're doing them differently. It is a chance to experience the full breadth and depth of UUism.

Our congregation, based on its membership size, as determined on Feb. 1 of this year, will probably be entitled to seven delegates to GA. These can be a mix of adults and youth. Delegates are required to attend all business sessions of the convention. This year there are 3.5-hour business sessions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of GA, and a 3-hour session on Sunday. These General Sessions are where the discussions are had about issues, and where votes are taken. Delegates don't HAVE to attend all these sessions, but it's recommended. No one takes roll. **One can attend GA without being a delegate.** The cost is the same. Delegates are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Cost - Adult registration for the full five days is \$395. Fees increase on May 1 to \$450. Full-week youth registration is \$225/260. Youth are grades 9-12. It is also possible to register for ONE DAY for \$150/Adult and \$95/Youth. Last year a one-day registration actually allowed attendance for two days—Wednesday through Thursday, or Saturday through Sunday. [Registration](#) opens March 1 and runs through April. Late registration ends when GA begins. Other costs are food and parking.

Don't want to pay [anything](#)? The Sunday morning worship is free and you can also visit the Exhibition Hall on Sunday (and buy stuff). You can also volunteer to help at GA, [but all of the volunteer positions are now filled](#).

Children – There is no charge for children who have not yet entered high school, as long as they are under adult supervision. There may be a Middle School Day Camp again this year. A parent has to be registered for GA.

What the Week Looks Like at GA:

Wednesday - Attend the Orientation at 2 p.m. (for first-timers) and then the Welcoming Session at 7:30 p.m., with the Banner Parade (which our own Kenna Basset is coordinating).

Thursday, Friday, Saturday – Attend Business Sessions/General Sessions from 8:45 to 12:15. Then attend workshops from 1:30 to 6:15. That schedule is not available yet. You could Google uua ga 2016 to see an example of programming from that year.

On **Thursday** the big event is the Service of the Living Tradition, a large worship service at 8 p.m.

On **Friday** there is a large Public Witness event.

On **Saturday** there is the annual Ware Lecture with a prominent speaker on a social justice topic.

On **Sunday** – Large worship service at 9 a.m. The Closing Ceremony is 12:30 to 3:30. Both are worth attending.

You can easily spend 10-12 hours a day at GA Thursday thru Saturday, or you can take a break and go home and come back for evening events. The Exhibit Hall will be open large parts of each of the days. In addition to Youth gatherings there are separate Young Adult events at GA.

Home Hospitality - Members of local congregations are encouraged to offer rooms to out of town UUs. Rates are typically \$35/night for a sofa, \$65/night for one person and \$75/night per couple sharing a room. Full payment is due at the time of the reservation with PayPal Checkout (PayPal and Credit Cards accepted). Each congregation gets to keep whatever revenues its members bring in. Hosts would need to work out whether they are willing to transport car-less guests to GA each day. A Home Hospitality website will be up and running soon.

History - Last year in New Orleans we had two delegates. Ann McCleery attended onsite and Linda Trout was an offsite delegate, participating online from home. Offsite delegates pay \$150 and get to vote and comment on discussions in real time. Others who attended included Rev. Rose, Rachel, Nancy Mays, Andrea Nelson, and Gaby and Bruce Kusko. Talk to them about their experiences. (For more information contact Gaby Kusko)