



## **Planning Team Conference Call Notes**

**Tuesday, August 8, 2017 12:30PM Pacific/2:30PM Central/3:30PM Eastern**

Participating: Ray Bagnuolo, Barb Crabtree, Marianne Duddy-Burke, Rick Mixon, Sylvia Rhue, Mel Soriano, Justin Tanis, Marnie Warner, Judith Wray. Staff: Mark Bowman, Linda Brenner, Ryan Hoffman, Carl Foote, AhSa-Ti Tyehimba-Ford.

Introductory question: Who is one of our invited guests you're looking forward to meeting in person? And who among our saints no longer living do you wish you could meet?

### **1. REGISTRATIONS**

We currently have 55 invited guests, planning team and staff members registered plus 30 other persons (5 of those comped). No one so far has used a code from one of the conference flyers to get the \$25 discount. It is critical to emphasize everywhere the September 1 deadline for reduced registration fee. Goal is at least 100 registrations by then.

Ryan suggested that we refer to September as the "discount deadline."

Linda noted that several publicity initiatives coming up will emphasize registration.

Mark will see that registration is sent around weekly since team members are interested in our progress.

### **2. SCHOLARSHIPS**

Mark noted that Marianne & Mel have agreed to review applications and award scholarships. We have received about 10 applicants so far. Marianne noted that we have an interesting pool of applicants, it does appear that information is circulating in different forums. There are at least a couple applicants that don't meet the criteria for "students, young scholars & activists."

### **3. PUBLICITY**

Check out the amazing video clips from some of our invited guests: <https://rollingthestoneaway.org/topics/video/> More will be coming in over the next week. Linda reported positive feedback to these video clips which we will start sharing on Facebook this week. She is working on using different parts of these videos for a special video for the MCC Special Offering Sunday coming up at the end of August. Expressed appreciation to AhSa-Ti for her work on editing the videos.

Ray asked if there would be a general video introducing Rolling the Stone Away. Linda replied that working on the video for appeal to MCC for their special offering Sunday. Mark asked if that video could be designed to be used in congregations in other traditions. Ryan proposed that a general video would be helpful. Barb has suggestion that she will pass on to Linda.

#### 4. WEBSITE

Carl presented written report on website usage for agenda: Website use has rebounded from the Fourth of July holidays. Over two weeks (July 9-22) the RTSA website has received an average of 37 visits per day, up from an average of 27 during June. Over 300 visitors were new to the site during that time, half of which went on to explore the site. Facebook continues to play an important role in bringing visitors to the RTSA website – 45% of the new visitors were came to the site via social media, up from a third in June. Postings of invited guests attract new visitors, with Nancy Wilson (22 visitors) and Brian McNaught (14 visitors) leading the two-week period. Past the home page, invited guests were viewed most often, followed by the conference program:

Home page:	32% of visits	Invited Guests:	15%	Program/Schedule:	12%
About Us:	9%	Exhibits:	6%		
Location:	5%	Donate:	5%	FAQ:	4%
Support:	2%	Register:	2%		

Posts on the RTSA Facebook page continue to have a modest amount of traction and exposure, with responses to a post varying widely (as before).

Carl noted that additional work done on the website is the addition of the video clips.

#### 5. NAACP MISSOURI TRAVEL ADVISORY

Mark noted that several persons have asked about our response to the NAACP issuing an advisory of “extreme caution” for persons traveling to Missouri. Suggested that planning team members share some responses here and designate a team to develop our response.

Linda reported that MCC sent out the NAACP release to the participants in their Persons of African Descent Conference in St. Louis last week. They did not hear any particular feedback or concerns. There was appreciation that MCC had been forthcoming in acknowledging the situation.

Barb noted that our response can be shaped as a prophetic call to justice, certainly appropriate to our gathering.

Judith suggested that we check in with our hotel which has been most welcoming to us to see what local responses to the travel advisory are. We can build on our positive relationship with the hotel.

Justin proposed two points to address: a) address the concerns and well-being of persons of color coming to Rolling the Stone Away; and b) how we can engage with the NAACP around this. Suggests we confer with Roland Stringfellow on the CLGS staff who has done work with the NAACP. What are ways we can support their efforts? Would be good for a statement to come out of our conference.

Marnie asked if anyone has said they are not coming because of the advisory?

Barb noted that when MCC met in Acapulco a number of years back there were news stories about violence against LGBT persons in that region and some persons did not come because of that. Would be good to have a statement on our website soon.

Judith concurred that it would be useful to have a statement on the website.

Linda proposed that she and Lauren would contact Roland and work on this statement, Pamela, Justin and AhSaTi will work with them.

Barb suggested that they might want to get a quote from Rev. Traci Blackmon who was the closing preacher at the PAD Conference.

## 6. FINANCES

Marnie noted that current budget and report on fundraising efforts were included with the agenda. There are three key initiatives in the next couple weeks:

- a. Seminary Sponsors—inviting seminaries to give \$1,000 for public recognition, full-page ad, display table & comp registration. Boston U & PSR signed on so far. Ryan is sending invitations to about 15 more seminaries.
- b. MCC Special Offering—MCC inviting congregations to take a special offering on August 27th (or another Sunday) to support us. Linda & Lauren are working with team to produce resources—including a video—to support this. Congregations in other denominations could be invited to join this effort.
- c. Crowdfunding campaign to fund scholarships. Setting up now to kick off around September 1. Everyone can help by spreading the word and generating initial gifts. Ryan is circulating a plan for doing this.

With all of our current initiatives we project being about \$15K short of the \$200K total revenue needed to cover expenses. Since our most successful and efficient efforts have been when a guest or planning team member has invited persons they know to give (Marnie, Mark, Ray, Mel White, Nancy Wilson), we need another 8-12 persons to do this. Finance Team will identify/invite persons to do this and provide support.

Ryan asked persons to let him know if they have a connection with a seminary. He will circulate list of seminaries he is contacting; other suggestions welcome. Justin noted that is often the Director of Admissions that makes these decisions, so that might be our point of first contact.

## 7. PROGRAM

Judith presented the report from the Program Team that was sent around last night. This is a work in progress and any feedback is appreciated. The team started with a list of invitees that they thought were essential to speak in a plenary. Everyone will speak in a plenary and/or panel (sessions 4 & 5). And tried to use each invitee only in one plenary.

Justin asked what the “Y” next to some names means; Judith said this was to designate “younger” leaders although not all are so indicated.

Marnie expressed appreciation for putting scriptural texts with most of the sessions; makes us look faithful. And asked for confirmation that every invitee will have a part at some point. If so, can we state this on the website—that participants will hear all of these voices?

Rick noted that there are scriptures for some but not all sessions. And notes that we seem to overuse the word “panel”; it shows up in many different places. Maybe we call the sessions 4 & 5 “break-outs.”

Carl noted that he can start adding invited guests to the program section of the website as known; we do not need to have them all completed before adding.

Judith indicated that we have to confirm that the guests have agreed to a particular session before we list them publicly.

AhSa-Ti asked for details on different parts of the program and times as soon as available so she can plan for A-V.

Judith noted that team is interested in utilizing some short video clips and quotes in some sessions and needs to coordinate how that will be done with AhSa-Ti. Will invite her to join a meeting soon.

Mark asked if planning team members would be willing to assist in preparing an aspect of the program and to let the program team know that.

Judith noted that team particularly needs assistance in preparing many of the breakouts (sessions 4 & 5). Rick noted that this list is still being perfected but can send list around to rest of planning team to remind of what is being proposed.

#### 8. LIVESTREAMING CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

AhSa-Ti sent information on top two hosting companies we have available to us for pay-per-view live stream hosting. She would lean more towards Cleeng because their system is more user friendly. If we decided to offer pay-per-view then we could charge \$5 to \$20 for the opportunity to view what is livestreamed as well as view it later from the archive of the streaming service. Need feedback on who are our clientele? What would they pay?

Marnie proposed that we not publicize livestreaming soon in order not to hinder registration.

Ray asked what this will cost? Can we stream over multiple platforms?

Linda recommends that we stream over at least two platforms since many persons already know how to use Facebook Live.

Ray asked if we're planning to produce DVDs of sessions. Mark replied that all videorecordings will eventually be available on the LGBT-RAN website.

Justin observed that experience at CLGS has been that there won't be competition between offers of livestreaming vs. attending conference. These are very different experiences and persons are attracted to one or other. Also thinks the livestreaming should be free or very inexpensive. This is our gift back to our community.

Barb suggested that we include a "Donate" button with the livestreaming. Also MCC has learned that attendees will use Facebook Live on their own

Judith also expressed reluctance to publicize livestreaming very far in advance.

#### 9. OTHER

Linda offered that Nancy Wilson reports that Delores Berry is being taken off life support. Remember her in prayers.

#### 10. NEXT MEETING Monday, August 28 4:00PM Eastern/3:00PM Central/1:00PM Pacific.

Will plan to meet biweekly after that until the conference. Mark to see if this day/time will work for most members through September/October.

# ROLLING THE STONE AWAY: Generations of Love and Justice

Plenary Emcees  
Song Leaders

**JUSTIN TANIS & PAMELA LIGHTSEY**  
**MARK WILSON & SUSAN BEELER**

**Session 1: Welcome & Context**

**MARY HUNT & LAUREN BENNETT**

**Text: John 11:1-16**

*Glimpses of the invited guests present here; dialogue on how remembering elders and history can inform and propel movements today.*

**PANEL: JANIE SPAHR, JIMMY CREECH, RENEE MCCOY, BRIAN MCNAUGHT, ROBYN HENDERSON-ESPINOZA, DARNELL FENNELL OR BRANDAN ROBERTSON**

**Session 2: Ritual of Remembrance**

**RICK MIXON, KAREN ZIEGLER, LOUIS MITCHELL, JONIPHER KWONG**

**Text: Luke 11:17-37**

*Recognizing our leaders and friends who have died as well as other losses over the years*

**[ALSO, POSSIBLY INVOLVE: JEFF JOHNSON, KAREN OLIVETO, LEO TREADWAY]**

**Session 3: Historical Period 1960s/70s**

**HEATHER WHITE & JIM MITULSKI**

**POEM: FREDA SMITH**

**PANELS:**

**A. TROY PERRY, BILL JOHNSON, ROBERT CLEMENT**

**B. NICKIE VALDEZ, NANCY KRODY, JUDITH HOCH-WRAY**

Response panel: **JOHARI JABIR, ALBA ONOFRIA (Y), REBECCA ALLISON**

**Session 4: Panels**

**Session 5: Panels**

**Session 6: Historical Period 1980s/90s**

**ANTHONY PETRO & MARIANNE DUDDY-BURKE**

**PANEL: CARL BEAN, NANCY WILSON, ERIN SWENSON, MARIANNE DUDDY-BURKE**

Response panel: **ALLEN HARRIS, MARK WILSON, ALLISON AMYX (Y)**

**Session 7: Stories from the Heart**

**DEBORAH JOHNSON & JUDITH WRAY**

**Text: John 11: 38-41a**

*Some of our guests poignantly recall what motivated and sustained them on their journeys.*

**PANEL: CARTER HEYWARD, IMANI WOODY, RANDALL MILLER, MEL WHITE, CHRIS GLASER, MEGAN ROHRER**

**Session 8: Historical Period 2000 till now**

**BERNIE SCHLAGER & RAY BAGNUOLO**

**PANEL: IRENE MONROE, FORMER NEW BRUNSWICK SEMINARY PRESIDENT, CEDRIC HARMON, KEISHA McKENZIE, ALEX McNEIL, MATTHEW VINES**

Response panel: **CHRIS PAIGE, HEATHER WHITE, ?**

**Session 9: Celebration and Commissioning**

**DEB PEEVEY & JIM MITULSKI**

**Text: John 11: 38-44**

*Ritual of thanksgiving for our elders, saints and prophets; dialogue between past & present leaders on how history plays role in shaping today's movements*

**[ALSO, POSSIBLY INVOLVE: JUSTIN TANIS, DIANE NEU (ritual)]**

**PANEL: JANIE SPAHR, NICOLE GARCIA, GENE ROBINSON, JAMIE MANSON, AVERY BELYEU**

**Panel: Reflections on Legacy**    25 min

Janie Spahr  
Renee McCoy  
Bill Johnson  
[young?]

**Whole Conference Ritual: Theme: Legacy**    10 min

**Panel: Reflection on Strategies**    25 min

Gene Robinson  
Chris Paige  
Delores Berry  
Irene Monroe

**Whole Conference Ritual: Theme: Commissioning**    15 min