

UNITARIAN ANNUAL MEETINGS

19-21 APRIL 2022



HANDBOOK

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

The 93rd Annual Meetings

Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel, 19-21 April 2021

Arrivals:



LOCATION

The Meetings will be held at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole. Plenary sessions will be held in The Queen's Suite with other meetings taking place in breakout rooms. All meeting rooms are within the same building. The Anniversary Service will be held in The Queen's Suite.



PARKING

Parking is available on site, on a first-come first-served basis, for £15 for the duration of the conference (including the Ministers' Pre-Conference). On arrival, please pay for your parking using the machines next to the Hotel's concierge entering code **JXLIY** to get our pricing. Alternatively you can pay online to avoid queues. Instructions are in your arrivals pack.

If you need a disabled parking space, we strongly recommend that you book this in advance directly with the hotel. For those with mobility difficulties, we would recommend that you unload your luggage at the main entrance and then park your car in the car parks provided. Cars should be left at the main entrance for the minimum amount of time possible to avoid congestion.



REGISTRATION

Checking in for bedrooms is from the main hotel desk in Reception. You may check in to your room from 15:00 on the day of arrival.

Participants register for the Meetings and collect their arrival packages from the GA registration desk in the main entrance on the first day. GA staff and / or volunteers will be on hand here to help with registration and directions. The registration will open at 11:00. Name badges will be issued at registration – please remember to use them.

Those arriving after the first day are advised to contact a member of GA Staff to arrange to collect their arrivals packages.



ACCESS FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY ISSUES

The venue benefits from all meeting rooms being in the same building. Floors are flat and there are lifts to all floors.



ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Participants will be accommodated in the main building – all rooms are under one roof.

Be careful to keep your room locked when you are not in it. Meals will be served in the Prince's Suite. An overspill dining space has been provided in the Arden Suite.

Breakfast: 07:00 – 08:45

Lunch: 12:45 – 14:00

Dinner: See schedule



BANNERS

During the Opening Worship on the first day there will be a parade of banners.

Congregations, Districts, and affiliated societies with banners are requested to bring them and to take part. Each banner should have a designated carrier and it is asked that these people assemble at the room 15 minutes beforehand, so that instructions may be given.



BAR

The Bar is open 24-hours. A 20% discount can be obtained on drinks by showing your name badge. Please do not buy drinks on behalf of other hotel attenders as the discount is only for our conference.



BOOKSHOP

The GA Bookshop will be in the Miller's Bar.



BUSINESS MATTERS

We draw your attention to the following requests and hope that, if everyone notes and acts in accordance with them, the business will proceed with fairness, interest and efficiency.

Please therefore:

- be in your seat in good time before each meeting is due to start.
- have with you all your documents, ballot papers and voting card; and please note that ballot papers and voting cards are not transferable.
- acquaint yourself with Standing Orders (Document AGM05/22); they are designed to help us all cope with our AGM business procedures.
- try not to leave during or before the end of plenary sessions; YOUR participation and vote are important.
- note the use of “for” and “against” microphones and line up at the relevant microphone if you wish to speak. This gives the Chair an idea of the level of interest in continuing the debate
- If you have mobility issues which make it difficult to move to a microphone, please raise your hand, and a roving microphone will be brought to you when instructed by the Chair.



CASH

There is a cash machine on site, but please note there is a charge for withdrawing cash. Alternatively, there are cash machines without fees in the nearby NEC.



CHAPLAINCY

The Ministerial Fellowship will again be running a Chaplaincy service during the Meetings, in the Sussex Room. Opening times will be circulated and posted on the room door.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Important note: All parents are reminded that the conference's youth programme ends at dinner time each day. During the evenings parents are responsible for their children and teenagers.

6 - 11 years, GA Kids (Junior Programme):

Our popular Junior Programme will once again be welcoming 6 to 11 year olds each day of the Meetings. Sessions run between 08:45 and 12:50 and between 14:00 and dinner time, with trained leaders. Activities will be varied and lively.

12 - 17 years, GA Teens (Senior Programme):

The Seniors follow an exciting programme of their own, meeting up with parents / guardians for the evening meal and joining some of the Annual Meetings' evening activities. There may be opportunities to join in with debating a motion with the main meetings. The Seniors and their leaders will decide what activities they want to do. The Seniors' sessions follow the same timings as the Juniors.

GA Zette (Youth Participation)

In the evenings Seniors are encouraged to get involved with the production of the GA Zette. Please note that this is an activity

of the Foy Society rather than the GA. The Foy Society cannot undertake to supervise any children, young people and vulnerable adults who wish to participate. Children and young people remain the responsibility of their parents if they choose to assist with GA Zette.



DEPARTURES

Rooms must have been vacated, with keys returned, by 12.00 on the day of departure. Please note that there may be a charge for the late return of keys due to the problems caused when their staff are unable to prepare rooms for the next visitors. Luggage may be left, at the owner's risk, on the final day in the Surrey Room.



DISPLAYS AND STALLS

Various activity/goods stalls will be in the Library Suite, and will ordinarily be staffed during the Tea / Coffee breaks.



EXTRAS

If you wish to book additional items, such as room service, you will need to leave credit card details with Reception.



GA ZETTE

This year's GA Zette Editors will be Elizabeth Smith and Elizabeth Rosenberg. Any advance submissions for inclusion in the first edition should be emailed to zette.editor@gmail.com.

There will be a collection box for articles & messages in the stalls area during the day. The Zette Office will be in The Lancaster Room on the ground floor.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GA staff and volunteers will be available to help. You will usually find assistance at the registration desk.



HEARING LOOP SYSTEMS

Hearing loops will be fitted to selected areas in the Main auditorium and the breakout rooms. The areas covered by the loop system will be marked on the floor. If you require the assistance of the loop system, please sit in these areas. Those who do not require the loop system, please ensure there is plenty of space in these areas for those who do.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

The telephone number of the venue is: (0121) 780 4242 and there is a 24-hour switchboard service.



MEDICAL ATTENTION

If you have a medical condition that could possibly require attention during the Meetings it would be very helpful if you carried, in your wallet, handbag or other item that would usually be with you, a sheet of paper stating:-

1. The diagnosis
2. A list of your medicines
3. The name and telephone number of your own GP.

Participants are also asked to inform the Conference Manager of these matters when registering to enable us to have this on record during the Meetings.



POSTAL ADDRESS

If you expect to receive post during the Meetings, please ensure that it is addressed appropriately:
Unitarian Meetings, c/o Hilton Birmingham
Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre,
BIRMINGHAM, B40 1PP.



QUIET ROOM

The Quiet Room, prepared by the Kingswood congregation, will be in the Kent Room.



SPA

Use of the pool, saunas and gym is included in your delegate rate.



TEAS AND COFFEES

Tea and coffee will be served in the Library Suite, with the stalls and displays.



WIFI

To use the hotel's wifi, please connect to network LOBBY using the password "LOBBY" - if you have problems connecting, please contact the hotel rather than GA Staff.



WORSHIP

(1) Morning worship will take place at 07:30. Those attending are asked to be in their seats five minutes before the start, i.e. by 07:25. This year there will be two different options for the morning worship: A) a meditational style (in the Pavilion Room), and B) a devotional style (in the Churchill Room).

- (2) The Communion Service will be on Thursday morning in the Churchill Room led by Arek Malecki.
- (3) An Opening Worship will start the Meetings at 14:00 on the first day in the Queen's Suite.
- (4) The Anniversary Service will take place in the Queen's Suite.
- (5) The morning Plenary Sessions (2 & 4) will start with devotions, as will Plenary Session 3.
- (6) Various worship sessions will take place during the breakout sessions.
- (7) The Closing Session will be held immediately after the end of the final Plenary Session.

Room key: **Pavilion** **Warwick** **Churchill** **Salisbury**

DAY 1 - TUESDAY 19 APRIL

Meetings Schedule

14:00 – 14:30 Opening Worship (including Banner Parade)

As we gather together in Birmingham, let us prepare our hearts and minds to renew our spirit and to reconnect with each other as we open our Annual Meeting with worship on the theme: ‘Since we



last met...’ Our opening worship will focus on welcoming one another fully and acknowledging the many changes that the last two years have brought about. Through words, music, ritual and banner parade we will bless our work together as congregations and individuals.”

Led by: Janine Hurley, Hannah Stephenson, Robert Foreman and Jacqueline Woodman.

Queen’s Suite

14:30 – 14:40 Break

14:40 – 15:55 Plenary I

Queen’s Suite

15:55 – 16:25 Tea

Library Suite

16:25 – 17:25 Governance Workshop

The workshop will seek to equip trustees with background information on employment issues and the legislation related to recruiting staff. An opportunity for a Q and A will be available, and we would welcome questions submitted before the event.

The workshop will also look at the implications of the Charities Act 2022, how it might impact congregations and the opportunities that could exist in the future.

Facilitated by: Ruth Jones FCIPD, MA and Simon Bland, GA Ministry and Congregational Support Officer

Pavilion Room

DAY 1 - TUESDAY 19 APRIL

16:25 – 17:25 **Hibbert Trust**

“Addressing Our Legacy of Slavery”

The Hibbert Trust and the Case Fund which it administers have their origins in legacies associated with slavery and over the last two years the Trustees have been examining their response and how its practices and programmes should change. Trust Chair, Derek McAuley, will introduce what the Trust has done to date and aspires to do in the future. It is hoped that congregations and other Unitarian bodies facing similar issues may learn from our approach.



Warwick Room

16:25 – 17:25 **Unitarian Historical Society**

“The Unitarian Heritage - a Perspective after Thirty-Five Years”

In this presentation Graham and Judy Hague will reflect on their many years of research spent in compiling the groundbreaking book The Unitarian Heritage - An Architectural Survey, including some of the surprises they found, and what has happened to some of the buildings since. The session will also look at developments in Unitarian church and chapel architecture since the 1980s. Discussion will then be welcomed on this fascinating topic.

Speakers: Graham and Judy Hague

Churchill Room

16:25 – 17:25 **Unitarian Renewal Group**

“Welcome as a Spiritual Practice”

Jenny Jacobs and Rev Jo James share their thoughts on the theme of ‘Welcome’. Beyond advertising ‘All are welcome here’ on our notice boards, how can we best help people to feel welcome – into our worship, but also when we move outside the ‘safe’ boundaries of that hour? Both of our



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DAY 1 - TUESDAY 19 APRIL

speakers are from city congregations. Both are members of the GA Executive Committee. Come and hear about welcome from two different viewpoints – one that of someone seeking a spiritual home, the other that of a minister putting welcome into practice. Come and have your say too.

Speakers: Jenny Jacobs and Rev Jo James

Salisbury Room

17:25 – 17:45 Break

17:45 – 18:45 Inklusivity Reception

This Inklusivity Reception recognises the need for People of Colour and Ethnic Minorities to create and hold spiritual space where they can be their whole authentic self. It explicitly invites all those who self-identify with a heritage rooted in the African, Asian, Caribbean, Pacific diaspora and of Ethnic Minorities as described under UK. Do come along to meet each other, chat and enjoy some refreshments.

Hosts: Rev Winnie Gordon and Shana Parvin Begum

Pavilion Room

17:45 – 18:45 Communications Workshop

“How do we better communicate who we are, what we believe, and what we have to offer so that our message of radical, loving spirituality can resonate with more people?”

This workshop explores this question, using a number of case studies to explore how our congregations are using websites, social media, leaflets, posters and other tools in practical, innovative and exciting ways. The workshop will be packed with practical ideas to try in your own congregations and will be facilitated by Rev Rory Castle Jones, our Communications Officer.

Warwick Room



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DAY 1 - TUESDAY 19 APRIL

17:45 – 18:45 **Send a Child to Hucklow Fund (SACH)**

“Far-off magic: SACH at 60”

A celebration of the Unitarian Movement’s Send a Child to Hucklow Fund - how it began 60 years ago, its achievements, and its hopes and plans for the future.

Hear from people involved with holidays over the years, from today’s leaders and children who have enjoyed the Hucklow experience, and why SACH is still needed. Come and enjoy an uplifting session.

Speaker: Rev Peter Godfrey

Churchill Room



17:45 – 18:45 **Unitarian Earth Spirit Network**

“Taking action for nature through rewilding”

The Trust promote the reintroduction and care of wild life habitats, particularly in urban areas. It is possible to dedicate part of our house or our chapel gardens to become a home or food source for animals, birds, insects and flowers.

Speaker: Emma Thompson, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust.

Salisbury Room



18:45 – 20:00 **Dinner**

20:00 – 21:00 **John Relly Beard (JRB) Keynote Lecture**

“The Politics of Waking Up”

Our John Relly Beard Keynote Lecture this year will be given by Indra Adnan - a writer, psycho-social therapist and political entrepreneur. Indra is the author of ‘The Politics of Waking Up: Power and Possibility in the



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Fractal Age', named by the Times Literary Supplement as one of 2021's books of the year. She is the Co-initiator of The Alternative UK political platform and is a global consultant on soft power.

She will be talking to us about her experience of working with communities to help them unleash their power, and why the work of inner transformation is essential in the work to tackle the crises of our times.

Speaker: Indra Adnan

Queen's Suite

21:00 – 21:15 Break

21:15 – 21:45 Peace Vespers

Led by: The Unitarian Peace Fellowship

Queen's Suite

21:15 Social Time

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

07:00 – 08:45 Breakfast

07:30 – 08:00 **Morning Worship A (Meditational)**

Meditation: A meditative session to raise your morning vibrations through sound and gentle movement

Led by: Shana Parvin Begum

Pavilion Room



07:30 – 08:00 **Morning Worship B (Devotional)**

“As we awaken”

Each morning is the chance for a fresh start, to leave behind yesterday’s challenges, and awaken to a new day. Join Louise Reeve for prayers, readings and hymns to start your day.

Led by: Louise Reeve

Churchill Room

08:45–10:00 Plenary II
Queen’s Suite

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee

Library Suite

10:30–11:30 Plenary III
Queen’s Suite

11:30 – 11:50 Break

11:50 – 12:50 **Keynote Workshop**

“Community Power in Action”

Our keynote speaker, Indra Adnan, leads a workshop following on from the themes explored in her John Relly Beard lecture. Learn more about the practicalities of supporting a ‘community agency network’, how they can unleash communities’ power, and how to identify the emotional needs your community is meeting for current and future members.



Pavilion Room

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DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

11:50 – 12:50 Youth Panel

“Official launch of the GA Congregational Youth Leader Support Group”

Please join us and explore how this group could support your church community

in nurturing forms of youth and family ministry which are in harmony with your setting. During the session I’ll touch on the group’s origin, purpose and culture as well discuss some of the opportunities which have started to emerge from this generative space. Current participants have also kindly offered to share their experience of being involved including their reflections on present collaborations as well as their hopes for what could be possible. It promises to be an uplifting conversation. I hope you can make it.

Speaker: Gavin Howell

Warwick Room



11:50 – 12:50 Unitarian Music Society

“The Life and Works of David Dawson”

This will be a celebration of the life of the former President of UMS, in words, pictures and music, encompassing his extremely varied and adventurous life. He was a great family man, as well as a powerhouse in his commitment to Unitarianism, both as a President of the GA and the Music Society. The workshop will be in the form of a worship service, including chalice lighting, hymns and prayers of thanksgiving for his life.

Speaker: Nick Morrice, Chair of the Unitarian Music Society

Churchill Room

11:50 – 12:50 Worship Hour

“Remembering who we are”

Considering our community, where are we from, how did we get here, why are we, where are we going?

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Led by: Rev Celia Cartwright

Salisbury Room

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Bad Coffee Club

Built on the desire to live life: Bad coffee club welcomes you to the tales of the unknown, exploring the creation of an intentional safe space, in a scary time. Discussing the origins of the space, why we feel it is, as well as why it is so important, and what can be learnt. (As well as a fun Q&A).

Pavilion Room

14:00 – 15:00 The Lindsey Press

Lindsey Press Launch Event

‘Why Are We Here? Discerning Our Unitarian Mission in an Upturned World’ explores ways in which the landscape of “doing church” has changed, especially during the Covid pandemic. Three of the contributors will discuss how Unitarian communities can flex and adapt in turbulent times while remaining true to their religious roots. There will be an opportunity to try out some of the “Questions for Reflection and Discussion” that are a key feature of the new book.

Speakers: Shana Parvin Begum, Rev Kate Brady McKenna, Rev Rory Castle Jones, Rev Jo James

Warwick Room

14:00 – 15:00 Unitarian Women’s League

The meeting this year will be made up of the Women’s League Annual General Meeting, which will include details of our new charity project for 2022/23, and a talk to explain the work of the chosen charity. The project consists of twelve months’ fundraising. This year the charity will be Women’s Aid. Anna Fawcett, The Head of Fundraising from Birmingham and Solihull, will be attending the meeting. She will have posters



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and leaflets for all to read headed “We listen, We believe, We help.” We are looking forward to starting our fundraising again, which always plays an important part of our year. Sadly the pandemic and lockdowns over the past two years have had a major impact on our work but now we are looking positively to the future.

Churchill Room

14:00 – 15:00 National Unitarian Fellowship (NUF)

“Nurturing meaningful connections for spiritual health”

This year the NUF is hosting Lizzie Kingston Harrison, our new Congregational Connections Lead. How do Unitarian congregations find authentic, meaningful, and loving ways to connect in an increasingly fragmented world? Lizzie works on the principle that we are stronger in community and that the spiritual health of our congregations is founded on the strength of the connections we make. Lizzie has been exploring new ways of connecting the movement so that we can continue to support and inspire each other. In this workshop she will be sharing her vision and outlining new ways for us to share resources, ideas, skills, and motivation across our community. There will also be a chance to ask questions and share your own ideas for congregational connection.



Speaker: Lizzie Kingston Harrison, GA Congregational Connections Lead

Salisbury Room

15:00 – 15:20 Break

15:20 – 16:20 Penal & Social Affairs Panel

“Levelling Up Education”

Disadvantage in our communities is all too often reflected

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by low educational attainment. Evidence demonstrates that education can make a difference and improve the skills, knowledge and wellbeing of our young people. Sir Kevan will look at the barriers that prevent improving education achievement in our disadvantaged communities and suggest how this can be corrected.

Speaker: Professor Sir Kevan Collins – Recent Education Recovery Commissioner for England; former CEO of the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF); former Chief Executive and Director of Children’s Services in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets; current Vice Chair at Learning by Questions, an Education Technology company; on the board at Cognita Schools, supporting their work with more than eighty schools around the world; recently appointed to the inaugural board of Australia’s Education Research Organisation; Chair of the Youth Endowment Fund; Board Member at HG Foundation.

Pavilion Room

15:20 – 16:20 **Welsh Department**

“My faith and the environment”

We’ll be sharing our journey as a youth group and how our Unitarian faith is driving us to impact, improve, and bring joy to those around us. Our session

will encapsulate how we found our feet and why we’re so passionate about making a difference. Social activists, environmental advocates, diverse, and quirky, we’re a team that are changing the game of what it means to be young Unitarians: ending oppression one step at a time.

Speakers: #Blessed Youth Group

Warwick Room



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15:20 – 16:20 **The Shared Pulpit Workshop**

What do you have to say that no one else can say? This question lies at the heart of both Erika's theology and the program she developed for anyone—but especially laypeople—to write their own sermon. In



this workshop, we'll explore a few powerful principles about sharing your lived experience from the pulpit (even if the thought scares you!)

Speaker: Rev Erika Hewitt (she/her/hers) serves as the Minister of Worship Arts for the Unitarian Universalist Association, in the United States. She served congregations for nearly 20 years, and is the author of three books about worship.

Churchill Room

15:20 – 16:20 **Findhorn Unitarian Network**

“Code Sharing: an update on the 2021 Code of Ethics Motion”
This workshop marks an important stage in the progress of the Code of Ethics Resolution passed at the GA Annual Meeting in 2021 with the formal launch of the GA consultation document and invitation to individuals, societies and chapels to contribute to developments. The workshop will focus on our values as Unitarians, how we are united by them, how they are articulated in our congregations and consideration of their incorporation into a code. The benefits of a code will be explored together with any perceived disadvantages or barriers to development so that both future expectations and concerns can be anticipated. The workshop will identify a range of mechanisms for engagement and collaboration.
Speakers: Val Chamberlain, Ros Connolly, Caroline Thorpe and a GA EC Member

Salisbury Room

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16:20 – 16:50 **Tea**

Library Suite

16:50 – 17:50 **Associate Members' Reception**

All Associate Members present at the Annual Meetings are invited to the Reception especially those who have joined us recently, to meet for a drink and to chat to old and new friends. Associate Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the wider Movement – and I'm sure that includes every delegate. Please join us; we would be very happy to welcome you and to sign you up – the subscription is only £40 a year.

Pavilion Room

16:50 – 17:50 **Weddings Workshop**

You are cordially invited to join Rev Melda Grantham in a session that celebrates Unitarian weddings. Come and share your stories, experiences, skills, desires, and



wish list. Hear what others are doing and tell us what support would best help you to offer every couple the wedding of their dreams. Together, let's create and share some love!

Speaker: Melda Grantham

Warwick Room

16:50 – 17:50 **Unitarian College**

“Unitarian College – Changing our Faith from the inside”
Unitarian College has much to share with the denomination since we last met in person. Please join us to hear about our significant progress in Ministry training, training for lay people and activities for children and families. Find out how you, your friends and your church can get involved. Our students will be with us to add their voices to our update, and we will be announcing the winner of the NWPA lay student of the year award.

Churchill Room

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16:50 – 17:50 **International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)**

“IARF British Chapter - Perspectives on Religious Freedom”

Religious freedom continues to face challenges in different parts of the world and British Unitarians have long supported

the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

In this session Robert Ince, President of IARF, will talk about the work of the Young Adults Network of IARF on promoting human rights in India and Rev Chris Hudson, Vice Chair of the British Chapter, will reflect upon recent issues in the UK and Northern Ireland. Chaired by Derek McAuley, Chair of the British Chapter.



Salisbury Room

17:50 – 18:10 Break

18:10 – 19:10 **Inquirer Reception**

Join the Editor and members of The Inquirer Board as we raise a glass and prepare to celebrate our journal’s 180th birthday. Always eager to encourage our readers’ involvement, we invite you to come along for a fun and thought-provoking review of past issues – and the quizzers among you, sharpen your pencils! If you have yet to sample this very special vehicle of Unitarian news and opinions do come and see what we offer, you will be made very welcome.

Pavilion Room

18:10 – 19:10 **Safeguarding Workshop**

“Making Purposeful Safe Space”

I invite you to join us on a journey where we’ll explore, imagine, and create an alternative approach to safeguarding

children and adults at risk of harm. In this session I’ll



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summarise how I see the current safeguarding landscape in relation to faith communities and voice the questions and which have emerged from those observations. I'll then propose an alternative approach which is guided by a known sense of purpose. To finish I'll suggest a direction of travel and extend invitation to join us. It promises to provide much food for thought. I hope you can make it.

Speaker: Gavin Howell, GA Safeguarding Lead

Warwick Room

18:10 – 19:10 Executive Committee Workshop

“Meet the Executive Committee”

A chance to explore the future of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches by meeting with the Executive Committee, the trustees of our central charity, who work with GA Staff and volunteers to support the wider Movement.

This is a space for dialogue - to hear more about existing strategic plans and long-term views, and for the EC to hear what's important to you and your congregation, now and in the future.

Churchill Room

18:10 – 19:10 Unitarian Peace Fellowship

“Where do we go from here?”

As Russia has invaded Ukraine, and the international situation becomes ever more volatile, the Officers of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship will be leading a workshop to discuss how we

might witness for peace in these uncertain times. Because “witnessing for peace” does not mean sitting back and doing nothing; it is not about apathy in the face of violence.



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It is about finding a more constructive way to respond to international unrest.

Salisbury Room

19:10 – 20:30 **Dinner**
20:30 – 21:30 Anniversary Service
Preacher: Rev Wyn Thomas
Queen's Suite
21:30 – Social Time



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DAY 3 - THURSDAY 21 APRIL

07:00 – 08:45 Breakfast

07:30 – 08:00 Morning Worship A (Meditational)

“Reflective Service: Draw breath”

Led by: Jan Smith & Mary Jones

Pavilion Room



07:30 – 08:00 Morning Worship B
(Devotional - Communion Service)

“The Lord’s Breakfast”

Early morning open table communion service rooted in the Christian tradition. It makes no difference what you believe or don’t believe. We revere the universal themes that serve as foundations to our observance of this meal: survival, longing for freedom, appreciation, search for meaning and love, need for nurture, our interconnectedness and our dependence on the earth.

Led by: Arek Malecki

Warwick Room

08:45 – 09:45 Plenary IV

Queen’s Suite

09:45 – 10:15 Coffee

Library Suite

10:15 – 11:15 ‘Revitalising Worship’
Workshop

Our congregations – the tender, struggling, joyful, complicated people who supply one another with comfort and courage

– are accustomed to familiar patterns of worship. How can we make room for creative, emergent elements among those familiar practices? What does a revitalised worship life require of its leaders?

Speaker: Rev Erika Hewitt (she/her/hers) serves as the



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Minister of Worship Arts for the Unitarian Universalist Association, in the United States. She served congregations for nearly 20 years, and is the author of three books about worship.

Pavilion Room

10:15 – 11:15 **Taize Worship**

This will be an opportunity to worship together on the final day of our meetings. Come and sing some familiar Taize songs, or learn new ones, and enjoy a mix of music, silence and readings.

Led by: Rev Ant Howe & Rev Robin Hanford

Warwick Room

10:15 – 11:15 **Unitarian Women's Group (UWG)**

"A Woman's Journey through 'Me & White Supremacy' "

Like many of us, I was moved to tears by the murder of George Floyd in the USA.

This ignited in me a strong desire to

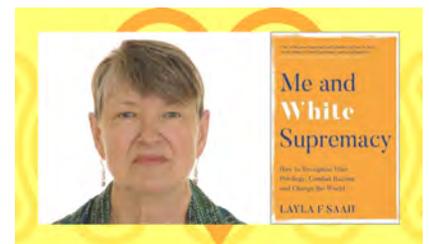
examine my own racist past, having grown

up in an ultra-racist family in Dallas, Texas in the 1950's &

1960's. I was then led to join an online book study group of

"Me & White Supremacy" with other European UU's in July 2020.

And the work continues, even to this day. I cannot hope to cover the whole book in this session as there is way too much material! My specific angle is to highlight some of the pitfalls I encountered around language, wrong assumptions, etc in my initial approach to this book. Since July 2020, my work with this book has continued in terms of rereading specific passages, researching other articles, videos and films that



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support the specific topics of the book. I have also led my first on-line book study group to help others cover this material.

Speaker: Danielle Wilson

Churchill Room

10:15 – 11:15 Nightingale Centre

Suzanne, the Centre's newly appointed Assistant Manager, and members of the Management committee invite you to our informal meet & greet session.

- Your opportunity to chat to us and share your ideas and thoughts about how we can improve guest facilities and experience
- Your opportunity to hear about some of the ambitious plans we are developing to improve our carbon footprint
- Your opportunity to engage with Suzanne about how to book as groups and individuals at our Unitarian Holiday and Conference Centre in the heart of the Derbyshire Dales.

Salisbury Room

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:20 Plenary V

Queen's Suite

12:20 – 12:50 Closing Worship

Queen's Suite

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – Departures

PLENARY SESSION AGENDA

President: Anne Mills

Vice President: Rev Sue Woolley

The detailed agenda for the Plenary Sessions will be distributed separately.

MOTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

The following motions have been submitted for consideration at the GA Annual Meetings 2022. Amendments may be submitted at any time prior to the final vote on a motion. However, it is in the best interests of clarity for amendments to be advised as far in advance as possible.

1. FROM TWELVE FULL MEMBERS

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches supports a well-funded NHS, free at the point of use and considers that the increased use of the private sector in delivery of NHS healthcare, benefitting shareholders at the expense of patients, is ethically reprehensible.

We therefore call on the UK Government to make a renewed commitment to a well-funded NHS free at the point of use and to abandon plans and practices which further divert public resources to private healthcare companies.

2. FROM THE FOY SOCIETY

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- a) Affirms with joy that each person's understanding and statement of their own gender identity is a matter of conscience;
- b) Affirms that transgender rights are human rights;
- c) Joins the British Medical Association, the Trades Union Congress and others in civil society in urging the adoption of a self-declaration model for gender recognition by the UK and devolved governments; and
- d) Requests that the Chief Officer lobby for this model in response to UK or devolved government consultations and on any other suitable occasion.

3. FROM EAST MIDLAND UNITARIANS

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches regrets the lack of consultation over the rebranding exercise and requests that the Executive Committee (EC) consults the constituent congregations and fellowships on whether to introduce the new logo or retain the traditional Chalice Design adopted in 2007 in the interests of maintaining a consistent denominational identity.

4. FROM BRISTOL FRENCHAY

That this General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches:

- a) endorses a World Citizens Initiative “We the Peoples Campaign”;
- b) joins with campaigns and petitions of other Faith groups who support this initiative.

As per the Resolution at the 2018 Annual Meetings, the following administrative motions are not considered to be part of the maximum 4 ordinary motions. The process to select ordinary motions will therefore not be required this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches welcomes the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry (LCM) into Membership as an Affiliated Society.

6. This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, noting the formal dissolution of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists;

- (i) expresses its appreciation of the efforts of ICUU, over the past twenty-seven years, in creating and enabling dialogue, understanding and co-operation among Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists across the world; and
 - (ii) acknowledges ICUU's contribution towards enabling the development of ministerial leadership, particularly for member groups distanced from established training institutions.
7. That the Report of the General Assembly Executive Committee and the Accounts of the General Assembly be received and adopted.
 8. That James Cowper Kreston LLP be appointed as Auditors.
 9. That Rev Dr Rob Whiteman be appointed Honorary Treasurer for the year 2022-2023.
 10. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Rev Dr Rob Whiteman for his service as Acting Treasurer during the year 2021-2022, and to district association and local officers for their invaluable services.
 11. That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.
 12. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the members of the General Assembly staff and to all volunteers for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.
 13. That Rev Sue Woolley be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2022-2023.
 14. That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by Anne Mills as President during the year 2021-2022.

DAY 1

TUESDAY 19 APRIL

UNITARIAN
ANNUAL MEETINGS
19-21 APRIL 2022



| | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|
| 2pm | Opening Worship (Queen's) | | | |
| 2.30pm | Break | | | |
| 2.40pm | Plenary I (Queen's) | | | |
| 3.55pm | Tea (Library) | | | |
| 4.25pm | Governance (Pavilion) | Legacy of Slavery (Warwick) | Historical Society (Churchill) | Welcome as Spiritual Practice (Salisbury) |
| 5.25pm | Break | | | |
| 5.35pm | Inclusivity Welcome (Pavilion) | Communications (Warwick) | Send A Child To Hucklow (Churchill) | Rewilding (Salisbury) |
| 6.55pm | Dinner (Prince's) | | | |
| 8pm | Keynote Lecture (Queen's) | | | |
| 9pm | Break | | | |
| 9.15pm | Social Time | | Peace Vespers (Queen's) | |

DAY 2

UNITARIAN ANNUAL MEETINGS

19-21 APRIL 2022



WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 7am | Breakfast (Prince's) | | | |
| 7.30am | Breakfast (Prince's) | Meditation - Morning Worship A (Pavilion) | As We Awaken - Morning Worship B (Churchill) | |
| 8.45am | Plenary II (Queen's) | | | |
| 10am | Coffee (Library) | | | |
| 10.30am | Plenary III (Queen's) | | | |
| 11.30am | Break | | | |
| 11.50am | Community Power (Pavilion) | Youth Leaders Launch (Warwick) | Music Society (Churchill) | Remembering Who We Are - Worship (Salisbury) |
| 12.50pm | Lunch (Prince's) | | | |
| 2pm | Bad Coffee Club (Pavilion) | Book Launch - Lindsey Press (Warwick) | Women's League (Churchill) | Connections for Spiritual Health (Salisbury) |
| 3pm | Break | | | |
| 3.20pm | Leveling Up Education (Pavilion) | #Blessed - Unitarians Wales (Warwick) | Shared Pulpit Workshop (Churchill) | Code of Ethics (Salisbury) |
| 4.20pm | Tea (Library) | | | |
| 4.50pm | Associate Members (Pavilion) | Weddings (Warwick) | Unitarian College (Churchill) | Religious Freedom (Salisbury) |
| 5.50pm | Break | | | |
| 6.10pm | Inquirer (Pavilion) | Safeguarding (Warwick) | Exec Committee (Churchill) | Peace Fellowship (Salisbury) |
| 7.10pm | Dinner (Prince's) | | | |
| 8.30pm | Anniversary Service (Queen's) | | | |

DAY 3

UNITARIAN
ANNUAL MEETINGS
19-21 APRIL 2022



THURSDAY 21 APRIL

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7am | Breakfast (Prince's) | | | |
| 7.30am | Breakfast (Prince's) | Communion - Morning Worship A (Pavilion) | Reflective Service - Morning Worship B (Churchill) | |
| 8.45am | Plenary IV (Queen's) | | | |
| 9.45am | Coffee (Library) | | | |
| 10.15am | Revitalising Worship (Pavilion) | Taize Worship (Warwick) | Me & White Supremacy (Churchill) | Nightingale Centre (Salisbury) |
| 11.15am | Break | | | |
| 11.30am | Plenary V (Queen's) | | | |
| 12.20pm | Closing Worship (Queen's) | | | |
| 12.50pm | Lunch (Prince's) | | | |

