

Per past experience, My GA is one looking for insights into what might relate to First Parish or my U-U faith in general. Like ...

"Creating a sense of adventure in Sunday worship." [Occasionally at least?--TR]

"Worship that works." [For different folks at different times? -- TR]

"Involving lay in designing worship services; using knowledgeable parishioners to participate in a subject that is professionally or spiritually down their alley." (Jim Robinson.) [Occasionally at least?]

"Giving should focus on parishioners' causes, spiritually and from the heart?" [What ever happened to responsibility for giving towards what one intellectually thinks is right and investment in the future of the institution itself? Not what is in it for me ... now, but how to assist in the larger community."]

"The budget as a financial reflection of Mission." [Hence may change from time to time.]

"In a crowded session focused on love and compassion, with many standing or seated on the floors, no one got up to give a seat to an elder." (Observation of a fellow U-U after a session.) [A week later while taking a bus from the Vineyard to a Woods Hole parking lot, a young lady got up to give Kitsy a seat. A rare, almost shocking courtesy these days.]

"If you are a part of a community, why hide it, or pretend you are not." (Rev. Asproth-Jackson, head of U-U fellowship committee.) [Kitsy and I purchased U-U stickers to put on our car bumpers. We have two more, if anyone wants them.]

"Power without love is tyranny; love without power is sentimentality." (Martin Luther King, drawing on Paul Tillich, quoted in a session on Morals and Minimum Wages.)

"Compared to the department stores of major faiths, U-Uism is more of a boutique" "Attendance is more important than membership as a measure of

church size." "That our Mission tends to be what is thrust upon us ... or handed to us." "Leave behind too much obsession with governance. Too often we do governance so as to not do the harder work of our spiritual and community needs." (Stefan Jonasson, U-U growth consultant)

"What things, if stopped, would help growth?" (Tandi Rogers, U-U growth consultant)

My GA suggestions.

Too much agendaing and facilitating games in the sessions too crowded to do much good. I missed more content from the sampling of the wise exciting ministers in our faith.

I missed the sessions in previous GA's that focused on Breakthrough Churches (large, medium, and small) that contained many lessons for our own First Parish.