

First General Assembly Planning Meeting  
Held by Zoom  
On  
Thursday 22, July 2021  
At  
1:00 to 2:00 pm

Present: Deborah, Jackie, Fran, Rachel, Elmira( ), Cynthia, Terry, JudithB and Judith (note taker).

Deborah opened the meeting with a welcome invitation to all to express their hopes for the upcoming GA meeting, guided by the question: What are your hopes for the GA?

Expressions of hope covered:

- Energy to become one Grail with the “splitters” zeroing out.
- Opportunity to reconnect and build momentum
- Opening to develop a hybrid mode of attendance that will encompass all and bring the voices of the membership to the fore
- Visualizing more Women of Color and Young Women involved
- Hoping on the Grail for the present and the future
- Welcoming the ability to cater for more membership involvement by physical and virtual attendance and implementation of the Pre-GA Report
- Contributing factor to creating an environment that we all hope for – Unity amongst us

Deborah capped the closing of expressions by stating that the GA is a critical time in the life of the Grail and it must take into account the diversity of the membership enshrined in age and race, while we showcase the five intersecting main issues of the Grail which emerged during the Pre-GA process.

In addition, she noted that her feedback from membership suggest that Elmira be formerly asked to take the lead shaping the GA. Elmira agreed and on second thought, Rachel accepted the suggestion to be the Co-Chair. Thanks to Terry for offering her expertise.

In accepting, Elmira noted the evident nature of the work ahead as being a teamwork which began at this meeting, flowing into its next meeting scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 4-6pm.

Additional decisions were made on (a) need for technology support - it was suggested that Elizabeth and Noella possess the required skills, and (b) the list of volunteers will be shared among the Planning Team.

Members closed by expressing their immediate emotions in words like hopeful, energized, anticipation, encouraged, unified and blessing.

The Meeting closed with a blessing upon the participants by Fran.