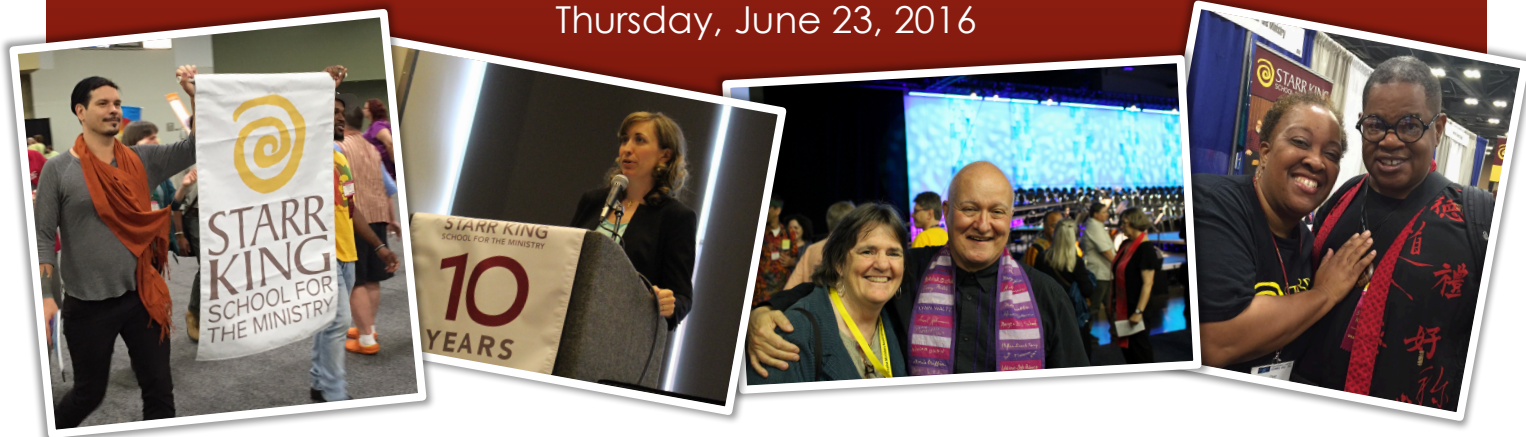


# Starr King Does G.A.

Thursday, June 23, 2016



## Day Two from Columbus

Are you in town for GA? Stop by our booth, meet our staff, [check out our events](#), pick up some goodies, and take a selfie with the photogenic Thomas Starr King! Couldn't make it to Ohio this year? Don't worry, we've got you covered. Scroll down to see what we've been up to.

## Introduction & Prayer with The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, President of Starr King School for the Ministry, and The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President of Meadville Lombard Theological School, opened the first plenary session with a prayer and ritual to ground the assembly in preparation for the important and also difficult work ahead this week. The two presidents discussed the stakes of what lies before General Assembly this year, and before all of us as we work for social justice and live our values in the world.

"The challenge is not for us to extinguish our feelings," said Rev. McNatt. "The challenge is how we work through them mindfully and



engage them in a way that honors their experience, their creativity, and their real struggles. And that also honors their individual struggles as well as those of the group."

Then Rev. McNatt, Rev. Dr. Barker, and UUA Moderator Jim Key led the assembly through a coming together ritual to prepare them for the plenary sessions ahead. Together, they closed the ritual with a blessing, ending with the phrase, spoken together, "May we take with one another the certainty that we can do together what we cannot do alone."

[Watch it here \(from 30:50-47:40\).](#)

## Faith-Rooted Organizing for Social Change

Today Starr King hosted an interactive workshop featuring Starr King graduate and Advising Faculty member, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, called "Faith-Rooted Organizing for Social Change." The workshop explored what it means to do faith-rooted organizing from a multi-faith perspective. It provided the audience with an opportunity to reflect on their own experiences in organizing and equipped them with tools and practices for doing this work in the world. Panelists included Starr King President, The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt; Starr King graduates Amanda Weatherspoon, The Rev. Darcy Baxter, The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom; faith-rooted organizer, The Rev. Chris Crass; and seminarian and UUA trustee, Julian Sharp.

"We need to be both humble and bold," said Betty-Jeanne, "What I mean by humble is that we need to be empathetic, vulnerable, willing to lay down our egos, and build mutually supporting coalitions across both religious and secular lines. But at the same time, we have to be prophetically bold."

"It's an honor for me to serve a school that created the first Master of Arts for Social

Change degree in the world," said Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt.



"When I am working in reproductive health and rights communities, helping them to try to claim moral language, to understand the sacredness of their work, that comes from a lived experience and a profound trust in UU congregations."

[Watch clips from this workshop here.](#)

## Meet the President Luncheon



Several GA attendees joined The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and the Admissions and Recruitment Director, The Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae, to eat lunch and learn more about the many paths towards religious leadership that one can pursue at Starr King. It was a gathering filled with delicious food and engaging conversation. To RSVP for Saturday's Meet the President Lunch, [click here.](#)



## Other Highlights from GA



Starr King School @StarrKingGTU · 7h

The 55th Service of the Living Tradition is officially underway here at the #UUAGA



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Starr King School @StarrKingGTU · 6h

"How did we get from the American Dream to the new Jim Crow and the Orlando shooting?" -Rev. Bill Sinkford

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