

Lee Bannor

The UUA plans GA's years in advance. When Arizona passed its draconian immigration law, there were a lot of people who thought we should change the venue. There was a lot of discussion at General Assembly in Minneapolis two years ago about whether we should move the location or stay in Phoenix. It was decided that we would stay in Phoenix, but to make it a "Justice GA", with the focus on the immigration issue and justice, and put the usual business of GA on the back burner. This morning we're going to talk about the experience. By the way, GA next year is in Louisville, a comfortable day's drive away. If you haven't attended before, this would be a good time.

Some of us in the UCE delegation could have come away from GA jealous of Eileen, because she was able to attend the demonstration outside "Tent City" and we were not. I know Jane and I were looking forward to it, old activists that we are. Unfortunately, we and the others from UCE got in the line too late to get on a bus to the demonstration. Instead, we had to sit in an auditorium and watch the event on an internet connection and sing a few songs. It was fun, not like being there.

The folks who went to "Tent City" all took little electric, flickering candles, so over 2,000 of those who were able to go could let their little lights shine. The live feed we in the auditorium we were seeing was fuzzy and we really couldn't see peoples' faces. It was after dark. But we sure could see those flickering candles, lighting the darkness.

After an hour or so, we were told that the first buses would be returning soon. Many of us took candles and went out to meet the buses. When we saw the buses coming, the people inside still had their candles on. We had ours on and we started to wave candles at each other. As people started to get off the buses, several of us chipped in to help people with mobility issues down the stairs. There were 36 busloads in all and as each bus unloaded there was much waiving

of candles, cheering, and back-slapping. During all this exuberance I started to think to myself how glad I am to be part of this intentional community.

Sing: "This Little Light of Mine"