



# General Assembly 2014: Reflections from Kendra Cross



**UU General Assembly (GA)** was an amazing experience. I was honored to have the opportunity to participate and represent Eliot. It was amazing to see UU's of all ages and from all over the world come together to learn, grow, and love unconditionally. There were so many fantastic experiences, especially the Bridging Ceremony for graduating youth, in which **Cori Compton** and I participated. Each youth got a chalice necklace and a glow stick, which symbolized bringing our unique and individual light into the world. I also enjoyed the Youth Caucus activities, the energetic worship services and music, and carrying the Eliot banner with Cori in the UU banner parade.

Another super cool experience was **WaterFire**, a community arts festival along the river in downtown Providence which the UUA sponsored this year. **The theme was love.** It was great seeing so many UU's and community members standing together for love and unity. The bonfires on the water were beautiful and watching the boats light them was awesome.

I learned a lot about myself at GA, as well as some new leadership ambitions which I'm bringing back to my congregation. I'm thinking of starting a campus ministry at college next year (Webster University). **One of the best things I learned, though, was the importance of social justice in the church setting.** I feel this is something in our principals which often gets overlooked. As UUs, we want to better our world and give a voice to those who have trouble being heard. This is very important to me and something I want to keep in my life and share with others.

Like at Youth CONs, I found myself getting closer to people in a few days than I've gotten with people I've known my whole life. I already plan to go to GA again next year. After an experience like this, I can't wait to have it again. I really appreciate Eliot's support in helping make this experience possible.

Love,  
Kendra

