

MINUTES

FORTY FORTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION HELD IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

The General Assembly was convened on Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Assembly adopted, by a vote of two thirds or more, Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

A list of the congregations entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year was read: Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - Florence, OR; Open Circle Unitarian Universalist - Boulder, CO; All Souls Free Religious Fellowship (All Souls U.U. Society) - Chicago, IL; Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community - Saranac Lake, NY; Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Slippery Rock - Harrisville, PA; Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - Decorah, IA; Wildflower Church - Austin, TX; Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg - Gettysburg, PA; Unitarian Universalist Community Church - Norman, OK; Unitarian Church of Hubbardston - Hubbardston, MA; and Unitarian Universalists of the Big Bend - Alpine, TX.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the Executive Vice President, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Social Witness, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Beacon Press, the Unitarian Universalist Washington Center for Advocacy and Witness, the Annual Program Fund Continental Committee, the Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, Starr King School for the Ministry, and Meadville/Lombard Theological School.

On the basis of an initial report by the Secretary of the Association, a quorum was declared present from the time the meeting was called to order.

President William G. Sinkford and members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee including Moderator Gini Courter, Jose Ballester, and Judi McGavin, Chair, presented the 2005 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Dr. Eugene B. Navias.

Action on Bylaw Amendments

**VOTE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE WITH THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that prohibit the President from being a member of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, identical to the restriction for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The amended text is as follows:

Section 8.9. President.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be a member, ex-officio, without vote, of all standing committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee and the Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

**VOTE ON DELEGATE STATUS FOR CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS
EDUCATORS-MASTERS LEVEL**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that provide for General Assembly delegate status for Credentialed Religious Educators-Masters Level, substituting it for the former accredited religious education designation. The amended text is as follows:

Section 4.8 Delegates.

- b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates. Each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in full or associate ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such congregation, and by the director or directors of religious education having achieved Credentialed Religious Educator - Masters Level status by the Association and employed in such congregation. In addition, each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by any minister emeritus or minister emerita of such

congregation in ministerial fellowship with the Association and by any director of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved Credentialed Religious Educator - Masters Level status by the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of the member congregation not less than six months prior to the General Assembly, provided that any such minister has been settled previously in such congregation, and any such director of religious education who has been previously employed in such congregation.

UUA Statement of Conscience

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly adopted the following Statement of Conscience:

Criminal Justice and Prison Reform

As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to affirming the inherent goodness and worth of each of us. As Americans, we take pride in our constitutional promise of liberty, equality, and justice for all, including those who have violated the law. Yet the incarceration rate in the United States is five- to tenfold that of other nations, even those without such a constitutional promise. Our corrections system is increasingly rife with inequitable sentencing, longer terms of detention, racial and ethnic profiling, and deplorable jail and prison conditions and treatment. The magnitude of injustice and inequity in this system stands in stark contrast to the values that our nation—and our faith—proclaim. We are compelled to witness this dissonance between what America proclaims for criminal justice and what America practices. We offer an alternative moral vision of a justice system that operates in harmonious accord with our values as a community of faith. This vision includes the presumption of innocence, fair judicial proceedings, the merciful restoration of those who have broken the law, the renunciation of torture and other abusive practices, and a fundamental commitment to the dignity and humane treatment of everyone in our society, including prisoners.

The Current Crisis

In 2004, the United States incarcerated 2.2 million people in its prisons and jails. Among industrialized nations, the United States incarcerates the largest percentage of its population. There are also stark disparities in the racial composition of our nation's prisons, as African Americans account for fully half of the prison population and comprise only thirteen percent of the total population. Costs of imprisonment have increased due to state legislatures criminalizing an increasing number of activities, mandatory incarceration, and mandatory minimum sentencing. In response to these increased costs as well as lobbying by industry groups, state legislatures have increasingly privatized prisons, introducing profitability into the already conflicted

structure of prison funding. Post-9/11 public fears have intensified the perceived need for retributive policies and have undermined those that are redemptive, rehabilitative, and restorative. Elected leaders and their constituents commonly conspire in this politics of fear.

Although Americans take great pride in the freedoms we espouse, the American prison system violates basic human rights in many ways. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States endorsed in 1948, states in Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." American correctional practice often subjects inmates to abusive treatment, such as torture and rape, and neglects basic human needs such as health care and nutrition. Some suspects are detained without charge, legal counsel, or access to family. While indigent defendants have exactly the same rights to competent counsel as non-indigent defendants, in many states indigent defendants are not provided equality of representation.

The American penchant for retribution squanders opportunities for redemption, rehabilitation, and restoration of the individual offender. Failures in the criminal justice system have created a disenfranchised, stigmatized class who are predominantly from lower-income backgrounds, poorly educated, or from racial and ethnic minorities. The punishment for crime is often simply separation from society, and the sentence one serves *is* the punishment. In our penal system, punishment often continues even after those convicted have completed their sentence. They are often stripped of voting rights, denied social services, and barred from many professions. If convicted of a drug crime, they become ineligible for federal student loans to attend college. Our criminal justice system makes it exceedingly difficult for anyone to reintegrate into society. People returning to their communities find that they lack opportunity, skills, and social services to fully function in society and hold down jobs, maintain families, or participate in their communities. Therefore, an unacceptable percentage of those released from our prisons and jails recidivate.

Not all prisoners who enter the system leave. One of the most shameful aspects of our current criminal justice system is the death penalty. Many countries have abandoned the practice of capital punishment. Studies fail to demonstrate that the death penalty actually deters crime. While the United States Supreme Court has ruled against the execution of juvenile offenders, the death penalty is still legal in the United States. Experience shows that judges and juries wrongly convict defendants. Given the number of death row inmates released on account of innocence, it is highly likely that we have executed innocent people and will do so again in the future unless we abolish the death penalty.

Toward a New Corrections Philosophy

The first two Principles of Unitarian Universalism address the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Consistent with these fundamental principles, a new corrections policy must place a primary emphasis on community alternatives.

Community alternatives should be developed in the context of redemptive, rehabilitative, and restorative justice. Redemptive justice recognizes justice as relational. Its purpose is

to restore wholeness and rightness in the social order and in the disposition of the offender, not to exact revenge. Rehabilitative justice is a process of education, socialization, and empowerment of the person to the status whereby she or he may be able to contribute constructively and appreciably to society. Restorative justice is a process whereby the offender can reconcile with the victim through appropriate restitution, community service, and healing measures.

A greatly expanded emphasis on community alternatives will provide substantial cost savings. These savings may and should be in community support services such as literacy education, vocational training, drug addiction treatment, viable employment, and affordable housing. The benefits of these services are in the quality of life for the offending person, the victim, the families of the offender and victim, and the increased safety and security of the community.

Separation from society may well be appropriate punishment for many crimes, but society's responsibility does not end there. A corrections system driven by compassionate justice would prepare offenders for successful reentry into society. An overwhelming majority of those who are incarcerated return to their communities, yet only a small percentage receive meaningful rehabilitative programming while in prison. In the reformed system, they will receive substantial rehabilitative services, including mental health treatment, educational programs, and vocational training during incarceration and employment and transitional housing once released. Redemption, rehabilitation, and restoration are not only humanely forgiving of those who have fallen off the main societal track; they are more effective and less costly in addressing the criminal justice needs of our whole society.

A Call to Unitarian Universalists

Appalled by the gross injustices in our current criminal justice system, we the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association commit ourselves to working in our communities to reform the criminal justice and correctional systems and effect justice for both victims and violators. We act in the spirit that we are indeed our sisters' and our brothers' keepers. Love is our governing principle in all human relationships. Therefore, that we may speak with one voice in unity, though not uniformity, we commit ourselves, our congregations, and our Association to these congregational actions and advocacy goals.

Congregational Actions

- Form a study group within the congregation to learn about the local jail and state prison system, its budget, recidivism rates, rehabilitation programs (inside and outside the facilities), and opportunities for volunteers.
- Network and collaborate with existing community outreach programs and advocacy groups for prisoners and their families.
- Establish Unitarian Universalist prison ministries and encourage volunteers from the congregation to go into prisons and get involved with and/or begin peer-counseling and mentoring programs.

- Address re-entry issues by engaging in supportive work with formerly incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism and increase success in the probation and parole system.
- Reach out and support congregational members who are personally affected by the criminal justice system.

Advocacy Goals

- Legislation that strengthens gun control, ends the so-called “War on Drugs,” disallows mandatory minimum sentencing, provides for fair, equitable, anti-racist sentencing, and abolishes the death penalty.
- Reforms of the judicial system to establish drug courts that prescribe treatment rather than imprisonment, provide affordable and competent counsel for all defendants, and empower citizen review boards.
- Effective alternatives to incarceration such as arbitration, restorative justice programs, community service, in-house arrest, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Dismantling of the for-profit prison industry.
- A publicly funded and managed system of correctional facilities accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and by the American Correctional Association, ensuring that children and youth in custody are separated from adults in the penal system, providing appropriate facilities and services for prisoners with mental health and other health concerns, addressing the unique medical and psychological needs of female prisoners, stopping prisoner rape, and abolishing cruel detention and interrogation methods and the use of isolation for prolonged periods of time.
- Termination of the relocation of prisoners out-of-state or out-of-country.
- Support for families and family life by assigning prisoners to facilities near their homes, by providing facilities that are conducive to comfortable family visits, by maintaining parental rights as appropriate, and by allowing prison mothers to raise their infants.
- Universal access to rehabilitation, education, and job training programs and restorative and recovery programs for non-religious as well as for religious prisoners.
- A probation and parole system empowered and enabled to correct the excesses of past mandatory sentencing requirements, provide compassionate reprieves for the terminally ill and aged, support former prisoners as they reenter society, and allow for individual evaluation of technical parole violations.
- Elimination of post-prison restrictions on civil rights and civil liberties, including voting rights.

Through ongoing congregational education, advocacy, and action, we can make good on our Unitarian Universalist heritage and our American promise to be both compassionate and just to all in our society. Through our diligence and perseverance in realizing this

promise, we can live the core values of our country and extend the values of our faith to the benefit of others.

Study/Action Issue for Social Justice

The following Study/Action Issue for Social Justice on the Threat of Global Warming received a majority vote of the Assembly and was referred for study in accordance with Bylaw Section 4.12(c):

Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society

Issue: How might the moral and ethical grounding of Unitarian Universalism be given greater voice in the public square?

Actions of Immediate Witness

The Assembly adopted by a vote of two-thirds or more the following six Actions of Immediate Witness:

United States-Sponsored Torture Must End

The systematic use of torture as a policy of governmental control is a crime against humanity. The right to be free of torture is a fundamental human right recognized in both constitutional and international law and in our social and community values. All government-sponsored acts of torture, regardless of circumstance, are immoral, unjustified, and illegal. United States-sanctioned torture is not justified by national security needs. It engenders hatred against us. It does not keep us safe. Our practice of torture has shamed us and endangers our troops abroad and citizens at home.

Acts of torture violate United States criminal laws, specifically the federal Anti-Torture Statute, 18 U.S.C. 2340 et seq. and the Federal War Crimes Act of 1996. They violate international treaties to which the United States is a party, including the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Two bills crucial to ending such torture practices need our current support: the Convention Against Torture Implementation Act (S. 654), introduced on March 17, 2005, by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act (H.R. 952), introduced on February 17, 2005, by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA). These bills would expressly ban "torture by proxy," or extraordinary renditions, which are violations of both international treaties and domestic laws.

No United States policy or official -- not the attorney general, not the secretary of defense, not the president -- is above the rule of law, including laws against torture. This time-honored principle of respect for law is intended to prevent governmental corruption

and the abuse of power.

We, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, firmly reject the use of detention, incarceration, and interrogation techniques by agents of the government of the United States that can be construed in terms of law or common morality as torture and cruel or degrading punishment.

Therefore, the delegates to the 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon our member congregations, affiliate organizations, and individual Unitarian Universalists to support the Call for Justice Weekend in Washington, D.C., on September 24-26, 2005, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Stop Torture Permanently (STOP) Campaign. Through this mock Citizens' Trial, participants will call on our national leadership to eradicate current torture practices by the United States.

This Citizens' Trial, supported by an interfaith coalition, intends to charge United States secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld, former Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet, and United States attorney general Alberto Gonzales with aiding, abetting, ordering, and conspiring to commit the illegal physical and psychological torture of detainees in the custody of the United States in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo, as well as secret United States-controlled prison facilities elsewhere. This interfaith coalition will also charge these officials with the illegal transport, or extraordinary rendition, of certain detainees to countries known for their systematic torture of prisoners.

It is vital that Unitarian Universalists call or write their United States senators and representatives to support proposed legal restraints and to ban the United States policies and practices of torture through appropriate and immediate legislative restraints.

Support of the United Farm Workers' Boycott of Gallo Wines

In solidarity with people struggling against oppression everywhere, Unitarian Universalist member congregations are urged to participate with the National Farm Worker Ministry, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, in support of a boycott of E. & J. Gallo wines that began on June 14, 2005. Grounded in our stance for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, we ally ourselves with the National Farm Worker Ministry and its efforts with the United Farm Workers to provide fair and respectful working conditions for the Gallo farm workers. The Unitarian Universalist Association can be among the first religious assemblies to stand with the farm workers on this issue at this immediate time.

Because Gallo refused to provide health benefits to those employees hired through farm labor contractors, workers voted overwhelmingly in a 1994 state-conducted election to join the union. It took five years for Gallo of Sonoma, a Gallo subsidiary, to sign a United Farm Workers contract. On November 1, 2003, the United Farm Workers contract with Gallo of Sonoma expired. Since then, the number of Gallo of Sonoma employees hired through labor contractors has grown to seventy-five percent. The company still refuses to provide health coverage for its workers.

We call on our congregations to boycott Gallo wines until the management of Gallo of Sonoma negotiates a new contract with the United Farm Workers providing for fair wages, just working conditions, and health benefits for all of its farm workers. Support for this boycott will also encourage and inspire other farm workers in communities across the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast.

Gallo wines sell under the following brand names: Anapamu, Andre, Ballatore Spumante, Bartles & Jaymes Coolers, Bella Sera, Black Swan, Boone's Farm, Bridlewood Winery, Burlwood, Carlo Rossi, Cask & Cream Caramel Temptation, Cask & Cream Chocolate Temptation, Copperidge, Da Vinci, E & J Gallo Twin Valley, E & J Cognac, E & J Gallo Vineyards, E & J VS Brandy, E & J VSOP Brandy, Ecco Domani, Ernest & Julio Gallo Twin Valley Vineyards, Frei Brother, Frei Brothers Reserve, Gallo Estate, Gallo Fairbanks, Gallo Livingston Cellars, Gallo of Sonoma, Gallo of Sonoma County Series, Gallo of Sonoma Estate Series, Gallo of Sonoma Single Vineyard, Gallo Sheffield Cellars, Gallo Vermouth, Gossamer Bay, Indigo Hills, Indigo Hills Blanc de Blancs, Liberty Creek, Livingston Cellars, Louis M. Martini, MacMurray Ranch, Marcelina, McWilliams Hanwood Estate, Mirassou, Napa Valley Vineyards, Peter Vella, Rancho Zabaco, Rancho Zabaco Winery, Red Bicyclette, Redwood Creek, Tott's, Turning Leaf, Turning Leaf Coastal Reserve, Whitehaven, Wild Vines, and William Wycliff. More information is available at www.nfwm.org and www.ufw.org.

This proposed Action of Immediate Witness builds upon several actions adopted by previous General Assemblies: Migratory Workers (1961-General), Agricultural Employment (1966-General), Grape Boycott (1969-General), Lettuce Boycott (1972-General), Boycott of Safeway and A&P Stores (1973-General), Support of UFW Boycott (1974-General), UU Migrant Ministry (1975-Business), Farm Worker Initiatives (1976-General).

Support for the Millennium Development Goal One: Ending Extreme Poverty

On September 12-13, 2005, the leaders of more than 190 nations will convene at the United Nations to determine the course of the Millennium Development initiative. Over 154 countries support the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000. The first of these goals is to reduce extreme poverty by half within the next ten years. This will take political will and advocacy by people of faith.

The United States has endorsed the Millennium Development Goals but so far has not backed up this endorsement with financial support.

The delegates of the 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urge our member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to remind their congressional representatives that there is increasing support by religious liberals and religious conservatives alike to reduce extreme poverty in the world and encourage them to promote this initiative.

Furthermore, we urge all Unitarian Universalist religious leaders at the international, national, district, and congregational level to inform themselves about the Millennium

Development Goals and to speak out in their communities about the eradication of extreme poverty.

End Crimes Against Humanity in Darfur, Sudan

WHEREAS the government of Sudan, allied with Janjaweed militias, continues to inflict systematic violence on innocent civilians in Darfur, Sudan, including murder, rape, torture, and destruction of villages;

WHEREAS these forces systematically rape the women of Darfur, and those who survive are forced to bear the children of their oppressors, and are thus obliged to cooperate in their own ethnic extinction;

WHEREAS deaths from the conflict are estimated at 300,000 to 400,000 since February 2003;

WHEREAS roughly two million Darfurians are currently displaced, many living in refugee camps where hunger and disease are rampant;

WHEREAS, according to the World Food Programme, 3.6 million Darfurians, more than half the region's population, will require aid to survive the "hunger season" (August through October);

WHEREAS the United States Congress, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and President George W. Bush declared that genocide is occurring in Darfur;

WHEREAS the United Nations Security Council has referred the conflict to the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS the Reverend William Sinkford, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, was arrested on August 26, 2004, in protest at the Embassy of Sudan over genocide in Darfur;

WHEREAS in March 2005, over 400 Unitarian Universalists, in a joint action of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, faxed letters to President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging action to end the atrocities in Darfur;

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association co-sponsored the Save Darfur Rally in Central Park in New York City, at which the Reverend Charles Blustein Ortman of the Unitarian Church of Montclair, New Jersey, and member of the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees delivered a keynote address;

WHEREAS pressure from the international community has yet to end the atrocities in Darfur;

WHEREAS the African Union Mission in Sudan, currently the only peacekeeping force in Darfur, lacks the size, resources, and mandate to protect the region's civilians; and

WHEREAS humanitarian workers in the region continue to be harassed by rebel and government forces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association that Unitarian Universalists should advocate for immediate action to end the crisis in Darfur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, given that the civilian population is at risk and aid workers and International Criminal Court investigators are intimidated and prevented from acting effectively, the 2005 General Assembly endorses United States government legislation that calls for:

- Support to the African Union, at no charge, to immediately expand its peacekeeping mission in Darfur;
- United Nations Security Council action to obtain international support for the African Union force;
- A presidential special envoy to Sudan;
- Logistical support for the implementation of a no-fly zone over Darfur, provided by a multi-national force, to prevent attacks by the Sudanese government on the people of Darfur;
- Complete cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office support United Nations Secretariat efforts to achieve the necessary Security Council action and to keep Unitarian Universalists informed of current events at the United Nations concerning Darfur; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges similar action on the part of members of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists in those countries that comprise the Security Council.

Defending and Expanding Freedom of the Airwaves

Open and diverse broadcasting is essential to a functioning democracy. In early June 2005, the United States Supreme Court allowed a decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to stand that found proposed deregulation of ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission to be neither reasonable nor in the public interest.

The George W. Bush Administration has cast doubt on the widely acclaimed fairness of the Public Broadcasting System and supports stripping it of federal funding. Increasing concentration of private ownership of commercial media has reduced the objectivity and diversity of public information, and the reputation and credibility of the Public Broadcasting System have become more important in this context.

Therefore, the delegates to the 2005 General Assembly call upon the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, their individual members and friends, and affiliate organizations to pledge themselves to protect the integrity and independence of our public airwaves by working to:

- 1) Immediately communicate support for full funding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to our congressional representatives in the United States Congress;
- 2) Urge Congress to enact a moratorium on the further selling of publicly owned airwaves;
- 3) Communicate support to the Federal Communications Commission for broadening the diversity of broadcast ownership and protection of the public interest as it redrafts media ownership rules following the June 2005 Federal Court rulings;
- 4) Advocate for reserving a substantial portion of the broadcast spectrum for publicly financed and non-profit broadcasting, both private and public, accountable to locally and/or regionally elected public commissions; and
- 5) Support the constitutional legal challenge of the Media Legal Project of Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community toward restructuring the broadcasting system in keeping with the First Amendment (freedom of the press) and the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection under the law).

A Call for Support and a Fair Trial for Dr. Sami Al-Arian

WHEREAS, the United States government has harassed Dr. Sami Al-Arian and eventually arrested him on charges of supporting terrorism due to his activities on behalf of Palestine;

WHEREAS, while awaiting trial, he was placed in solitary confinement in a maximum-security federal penitentiary for nearly two years, denied basic privileges, allowed limited visitations and access to attorneys, and subjected to strip searches and the harshest conditions of confinement;

WHEREAS, Amnesty International has condemned these conditions;

WHEREAS, Dr. Al-Arian was subsequently, but prior to receiving due process, fired from his position on the faculty of the University of South Florida and that this firing was condemned by the American Association of University Professors;

WHEREAS, Dr. Al-Arian has been denied a change of venue in his case, despite providing strong evidence that ten years of biased, inflammatory media coverage by the *Tampa Tribune* have prejudiced potential jurors; and

WHEREAS, the love of liberty, respect for the presumption of innocence, support for fair judicial proceedings, and commitment to the dignity and humane treatment of everyone,

including prisoners, are at the core of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States government's prosecution of Dr. Sami Al-Arian violates the Unitarian Universalist Association's Statements of Conscience of 2004 on Civil Liberties and of 2005 on Criminal Justice and Prison Reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations urges members and congregations to:

- Inform others about the case by organizing educational forums and fundraisers in their areas;
- Communicate their support to Dr. Sami Al-Arian;
- Donate to his defense through the National Liberty Fund c/o Dr. Sami Al-Arian Fund;
- Ask their representatives in Congress to investigate Dr. Al-Arian's case, end his solitary confinement, and support his release on bond during his trial;
- Stay informed about other United States abuses of civil liberties and work to eliminate those abuses; and
- Contact congressional representatives to advocate that the USA PATRIOT Act be limited, not expanded, and to specifically repeal the use of secret evidence (Section 215).

Responsive Resolutions

Two resolutions in response to the reports of officers were passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

International Engagements

In response to the President' Report we express our appreciation of President Sinkford's attention to global issues, including his anticipated trip to Africa this fall. We also recall the admonitions of Patrick O'Neill at the Service of the Living Tradition. Alarmed that our global woods are ablaze, we—as individuals and congregations—must get out of our little individualistic huts in the woods and engage the world on behalf of our core religious values. Unitarian Universalism is global, not parochial. Our 6th principle asserts “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” We must embody this goal by advocating, honoring, and expanding the ways we can act as responsible global citizens.

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2005 General Assembly urges the administration, the Board and the General Assembly Planning Committee to include our international engagements as part of the 2006 General Assembly theme of “Toward Right Relationships.”

Corporate Governance

Be it resolved:

To further the connection between our investment strategies and UU values, the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms ethical corporate governance principles which include (a) performance-based executive compensation that considers a company's impact on all stakeholders, and (b) full disclosure of charitable giving and political activities.

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: accredited and attending the 44th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1444 member delegates, 339 ministerial delegates, 6 associate member delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 19 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship for a total of 1816 delegates representing 565 congregations, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Canadian provinces. Total registration for the Assembly was 3671, including 211 youth and 80 children.

Other Business

Elections were held pursuant to Bylaw Sections 5.2, 6.4, 8.3, and 9.10. The results are as follows (* indicates those elected):

<u>Position</u>	<u>Votes</u>
PRESIDENT	
*Rev. William G. Sinkford	1264
MODERATOR	
*Gini Courter	1286
FINANCIAL ADVISOR	
*Dan Brody	1264
TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE	
*Charlie King	1219
*Tamara Payne-Alex	1231
YOUTH TRUSTEE	
*Julian Sharp	1220

COMMISSION ON WITNESS

Catherine Blue	671
*Jan Carlsson-Bull	898
*David May	905

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carol Agate	725
Karen Araujo	737
*Barbara Atlas	920
*Lynda Bluestein	791
*Fred Cole	860
*Elizabeth McGregor (two-year term)	1230

BOARD OF REVIEW

*Betsy Darr	1213
*Janice Marie Johnson	1219

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

*Rev. Barbara Child	1226
*Arthur Morrison	1209
*Michael Ohlrogge	1219

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS

*Laura Shemick (two-year term)	1228
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Kok Heong McNaughton	1222
*Rev. Robert Schaibly	1224
*Megan Selby	1216

Closing

A closing ceremony was held during which past and present officers and elected committee members were honored and newly elected officers and elected committee members were installed.

The Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Montgomery
Recording Secretary