

## MINI-ASSEMBLIES

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in General Sessions (formerly known as Plenary Sessions). Mini-Assemblies offer opportunities in small sessions for delegates to speak on issues, find out more about individual business items before a vote in General Session, and propose amendments to the business item or social witness statement. They are not the place to debate the pros and cons of a proposal. The Board of Trustees or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

**Business Mini-Assembly 1:** Congregational Linkage (p 76), District/region updates (p 83), Social witness process (p 80)  
Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | 2215 A

**Business Mini-Assembly 2:** Voting for religious educators (p 76), Change to principles and purposes (p 76), Youth Trustee (p 77)  
Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | 2215 A

**Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues Mini-Assembly**  
Thursday 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | 2215 A

**Business Mini-Assembly 3:** Committee terms (p 80), Co-Moderator roles (p 83), Gender neutral pronouns (p 78)  
Friday 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | 2215 A

**Mini-Assemblies on Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness**  
Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | 2101, 2102 A, 2102 B

## BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies (schedule above). After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

## PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES 2016-2020

Discussion of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in room 2215 A of the Convention Center. The vote to select one issue for four years of study and action is scheduled for a General Session.

## 2016 CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE: THE CORRUPTION OF OUR DEMOCRACY

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2016 General Assembly.

## ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#610) by 5:00 pm on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the Volunteer Office (2204 in the Convention Center) by 5:00 pm on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken at the Saturday morning General Session. Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments s on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in rooms 2101, 2102 A, 2102 B.

## BUDGET HEARING

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2018 - 2019 budget Friday at 11:15 a.m. in 2502 A of the Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the Volunteer Office (2204 in the Convention Center) by 5:00pm on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.

## Global ENDS/Shared Vision for the UUA

- 1.0 Global End - A healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.
- 1.1 Congregations and communities are covenanted, accountable, healthy, and mission driven.
- 1.2 Congregations and communities are better able to achieve their missions and to spread awareness of Unitarian Universalist ideals and principles through their participation in covenanted networks of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.3 Congregations and communities are intentionally inclusive, multigenerational and multicultural.
- 1.4 Congregations and communities engage in partnerships to counter systems of power, privilege and oppression.
- 1.5 Congregations and communities have and use Unitarian Universalist Association resources to deepen the spiritual and religious exploration by people in their communities, to enhance the ministry of their members and to improve their operations.
- 1.6 There is an increase in the number of people served by Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.7 There is an increase in the number of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.8 There is an increase in the number of inspired ordained and lay religious leaders equipped to effectively start and sustain new Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.9 Unitarian Universalist institutions are healthy, vital, collaborative partners invested in the future of Unitarian Universalism, its principles and theologies.

## LIVING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

### Purpose

**General Assembly: A Meeting of Congregations** is an annual opportunity for delegates from member congregations to affirm, promote, and practice the democratic process while conducting the business of the Association.

**Rules of Procedure** are adopted at the start of the Assembly. They are printed (as proposed but not necessarily as adopted) in the GA Agenda. The Rules of Procedure are designed to help the delegates effectively represent their congregations.

### Speaking in General Sessions

Before speaking, you must be recognized by the Moderator. To be recognized, you must be at a microphone. The Moderator recognizes you by referring to the microphone (“I recognize the delegate at the Pro microphone...”).

Any **delegate** or member of the Board of Trustees may speak; non-delegates, other than members of the Board of Trustees, need the consent of the Moderator or a vote of the Assembly to admit the speaker to the floor. (Such permission is granted only rarely.) Once recognized, identify yourself (name and congregation from which you are a delegate), e.g., “I’m Chris Doe from the UU Congregation of Great City, Ohio.”

Be succinct and remember you have only two minutes. You may speak on a motion only once as long as others wish to speak.

Speaking time is limited. Focus on substantive contributions. Do not speak if your point has already been made by another speaker. Be respectful by speaking only when you have something important to add to the discussion.

There are four microphones: **pro**, **con**, **procedure** and **amendment**

- To speak in favor - go to the **pro** mike.
- To speak against - go to the **con** mike.
- To make an amendment – go to the **amendment** table for assistance.
- To raise a procedural issue – go to the **procedure** mike.

**Procedural** questions are limited to:

- Parliamentary inquiry

- Points of order and information
- Question of privilege
- Motions to extend or limit time of debate, change the order of business, recess, or adjourn.

Procedural issues must be raised at the **Procedure** microphone. They take precedence over discussion.

The **amendment** mike is used only for making an amendment that has first been processed at the Amendment table.

### Discussion and Debate

There must be 15 minutes of discussion allowed on the motion as printed (or as presented by the Board of Trustees or Commission on Social Witness) before an amendment may be proposed unless the Rules of Procedure specify otherwise. If no one is standing at a microphone or in the off-site queue to speak on the motion as presented, this time may be shortened. The Moderator alternates recognizing speakers at pro and con microphones.

**After 15 minutes of debate, amendments may be presented.** Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. **Only one amendment may be presented at a time.** (You may not amend an amendment.) An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each amendment may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a non-business resolution into a Business Resolution; for example, you can’t add language to an Action of Immediate Witness that requires specific action from congregations or the UUA Board or staff. Before an amendment may be presented to the Assembly, it must be presented in writing at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike (see also “Mini-Assembly” below).

Some motions must be filed prior to the opening of a session, particularly ones concerning the budget. See Rules of Procedure in the Final Agenda for deadlines and place for filing them.

Motions of Amendment to items on the Agenda, Actions on Reports, etc., may be made as part of the debate. Be careful that your motion does not change the meaning so much that it is a substitute rather than an amendment. At times, you may make a substitute motion but must recognize it as such.

## Voting

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Delegates & Trustees vote by:

- Voice (call for ayes and nays)
- Uncounted show of voting cards
- Counted show of voting cards
- Written ballot

The Moderator is responsible for determining whether a motion passes or fails. A delegate who disagrees with the Moderator's determination may come to the procedural microphone and ask for a counted vote. At least 99 other delegates present must support the request to require the counted vote.

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each General Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace if lost, and you may not vote without your card. As a delegate or member of the Board of Trustees, you may not give your voting card to anyone else to use.

## Mini-Assembly

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A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to matters on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It's also an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments. Mini-Assemblies are not the place to debate the Pros and Cons of a proposal. In years when the selection of a Congregational Study/Action Issue is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates on ways to garner support for their issue. In years when a vote to adopt a Statement of Conscience is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save time in General Session and permit freer discussion and debate than General Sessions do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a Business Resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during General Session debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the bylaw and rule changes listed on the final agenda. All Mini-Assemblies are listed in the program. After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in a General Session, the Board of Trustees may incorporate proposed amendments into a Business Resolution or a Bylaw, and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into a Statement of Conscience or an Action of Immediate Witness. For statements of Conscience, the Commission on

Social Witness is required to report all amendments to the Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness may prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in General Session. If you wish to modify the Statement of Conscience, plan to attend the entire Mini-Assembly and work collaboratively with other delegates to suggest amendments.

## Budget Hearing

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At the Budget Hearing, questions may be answered, but no motions may be made. Motions to modify the budget must be made in writing by the time announced in and in the manner required by the Rules of Procedure. Budget motions, if adding funds to an item or proposing new spending, must specify which other specific categories are to be reduced. See Rule G-10.1.4.

## Statements of Conscience

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Based on feedback from the Mini-Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness may recommend that the Assembly (which includes both the delegates & Trustees) change the length of time the statement is debated before amendments are in order. Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

## Actions of Immediate Witness

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Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that the Assembly may wish to address immediately. The process for admitting Actions of Immediate Witness to the agenda means that congregations commonly have no opportunity to consider and discuss them in advance of General Assembly. So, Actions of Immediate Witness should address only issues that could not be considered by the Congregational Study/Action Issue process. Consult Article IV, Section 4.16 (c) (1) of the UUA Bylaws for the criteria for an Action of Immediate Witness. Up to three Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the Agenda.

**How can a delegate place an Action of Immediate Witness on the Agenda?** Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) booth in the Exhibit Hall. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by 5:00pm on Thursday. Then, begin collection of signatures from other delegates. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures at the Volunteer Office by 5:00 pm on Friday. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

# DELEGATE GUIDE

**What happens then?** The Commission will review the AIWs to determine if they meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission will select no more than six from among those submitted that meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission on Social Witness screens proposed Actions of Immediate Witness according to the criteria of grounding, fit and opportunity, as well as significance, timeliness and specificity (see bylaw section 4.16(c)). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process.

At the Saturday morning General Session, the Assembly (which includes delegates & Trustees) will vote to admit up to three proposed AIWs to the final agenda. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, the Assembly will vote whether to adopt any or all of those three AIWs at a General Session on Sunday.

## To Get Your Questions Answered

**Play fair.** The guidelines that follow are not subterfuges for you to use to get around time limits. They are designed to make you more knowledgeable and effective.

**Point of Information.** Raise a point of information when you want to get information, not give it. A delegate or member of the Board of Trustees may request “Point of Information” from the procedural microphone. It’s exactly that: a request for information such as “On what are we voting?” or “What is the cost to the UUA of this motion?” Your question cannot be a statement, and no preface except your identification is permitted.

**Point of personal privilege.** Raise a point of personal privilege when your ability to do business is being hampered. Any delegate or member of the Board of Trustees may request a Point of Personal Privilege. You go to the procedural microphone and say “Point of Personal Privilege” and wait to be recognized by the Moderator. After recognition, identify yourself and state your point (no statement, no argument or preface, just the bare request), such as “It is not possible to hear from the pro microphone” or “Our section was not counted.”

**Point of procedure.** You use this for questioning parliamentary procedure. A delegate or member of the Board of Trustees may interrupt debate by going to the procedural microphone and saying “Point of Procedure” and wait to be recognized. A sample point is “Is this not an amendment to an amendment?” or “Was a vote taken?”

**Need information?** Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Board of Trustees. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each General Session.

**Do you have an amendment?** Are you unhappy with part of a motion/business item? Time constraints preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered in General Session. Preliminary work on agenda items are completed in the Mini-Assembly.

## Committee of the Whole

When the Assembly is debating a particularly complex or difficult question (there may be two, three, or four alternate versions or ideas), the Moderator may decide, or a delegate may move, that the Assembly move into a “Committee of the Whole” to consider the subject. If done, the Rules of Procedure are eased and the Assembly now acts as a committee.

- A person other than the Moderator may occupy the Chair.
- Discussion may take place without motions.
- The only motions allowable are motions to amend, adopt, or reconsider.
- Non-binding straw votes may be taken.
- The formality of pro/con microphones is somewhat relaxed.
- You may speak only once on a topic in a discussion unless no one else wishes to speak.
- Time limits are relaxed or do not exist unless the “Committee” sets them.

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate or Trustee moves that the Committee of the Whole “rise and report” specifying the agreed upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the General Session of the General Assembly is again in session. The motion formulated in the Committee is reported and vote is taken immediately, without debate or possibility of amendment.

# AGENDA: ORDER OF BUSINESS

## General Session I & Banner Parade Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Review and Adopt Rules
- Honoring our Ancestors
- Introduction: Chaplains
- Introduction: Right Relationship Team
- Introduction: Safety Team
- GA Accessibility
- Recess

## General Session II Thursday 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- Covenant and Beloved Community
- Right Relationship Team Report
- Introduction: GA Planning Committee
- Introduction: Youth Caucus
- Introduction: Young Adult Caucus
- Recognition of Emerging Congregations and Covenants
- Commission on Social Witness Report
- Public Witness with Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
- Singing
- Co-Moderators' Report
- Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Report
- Financial Advisor's Report
- Presentation of UUA Budget
- Commission on Institutional Change Report
- Board of Trustee's Report
- Singing
- Announcements
- Process Observation
- Closing Reading
- Recess

## General Session III Friday 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- Covenant and Beloved Community
- Right Relationship Team Report
- President's Report
- Beacon Press Report
- Introduction: International Guests
- Singing
- Presentation: Distinguished Service Award I
- Presidential Search Committee Report
- Commission on Appraisal Report
- UU Women's Federation Report
- Presentation: Angus MacLean Award
- Rules and Process Review
- Closing Reading
- Recess

## General Session IV Friday 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Consider Congregational Study Action Issues
- Annual Program Fund Report
- Legacy Society Report
- Singing
- Consider Bylaw Amendment Article II, Section C-2.1. Principles, Line 26, changing men and women to people
- Consider Bylaw Amendment creating Section 6.16 Congregational Linkage
- Consider Bylaw Amendment Section 4.8 addressing Voting for Religious Educators
- Consider Bylaw Amendments establishing Youth Trustees
- Announcements
- Process Observations
- Closing Reading
- Recess

# AGENDA: ORDER OF BUSINESS

## General Session V

**Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Right Relationship Team Report
- Rules and Procedures Review
- Discussion and Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- Singing
- Presentation: Distinguished Service Award II
- UU Service Committee Report
- UU College of Social Justice Report
- Panel Discussion - Religious Professionals of Color
- Special Collection for UUA Equity, Inclusion and Transformation
- Singing
- Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee Report
- Consider Bylaw Amendment regarding Gender Neutral Pronouns
- Consider Bylaw Amendment regarding Committee Terms (Section 7.2)
- Consider Bylaw Amendments regarding Social Witness Process Timeline (Sections 4.12 and 4.16)
- Consider Bylaw Amendment regarding Co-Moderator Roles (Sections 8.8 and 9.11)
- Consider Bylaw Amendment regarding District/Region Updates (Section 4.4)
- Singing
- Motion to admit Actions of Immediate Witness to Final Agenda
- Election for Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Moderator
- Instructions for General Session VI small group conversations
- Announcements
- Process Observation
- Closing Words
- Recess

## General Session VI

**Saturday 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.**

- Discussion: Together We Are Called (go directly to assigned spaces)

## General Session VII

**Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Discussion: Report back from small groups
- Process Observation
- Closing Reading
- Recess

## General Session VIII

**Sunday 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Installation of Elected Trustees and Nominating Committee
- Installation of Co-Moderators
- Presentation: President's Award for Volunteer Service
- Consideration of Actions of Immediate Witness
- Responsive Resolutions (if any)
- Right Relationship Team Report
- GA Spokane 2019
- Process Observation
- Final Credentials Report
- Recognition of all who made GA possible
- Chalice Extinguishing
- Adjournment

## LETTER FROM THE CO-MODERATORS

We welcome all attendees (delegates and non-delegates alike) to General Assembly 2018. This year the theme is “All Are Called” and we believe that in order for our faith to truly live out democratic principles, all are not only called but are needed to transform our faith communities and institutions in service of the Unitarian Universalism our world needs today.

This year we will be trying some new things. The Board, in partnership with the GA Planning Committee and UUA staff, have created a Community Safety Team to mitigate our contact with police. We are also trying new things with respect to voting and discussions, with intentional time set aside for deliberation and collective conversations. Finally, we are embarking on changing our bylaws to make them more liberating and less confining.

This is a big year for us as a faith movement and we have set aside three times for intentional conversations: (1) during Thursday morning’s General Session II, with a focus on the Commission on Institutional Change and UUA Board reports, (2) in small group conversations during Saturday afternoon’s General Session VI, and (3) during Sunday morning’s General Session VII, when we will share back from our small group conversations and begin to lay out plans for the future.

After GA 2018, we will create a bylaws review commission that will work with congregations, covenanted communities, and stakeholder organizations to develop and draft modernized bylaws for GA attendees to discuss in 2019. The Board, in partnership with this commission and UUA staff, will develop a conversation guide for congregations and other UU covenanted communities. There will also be opportunities online and in person to continue the discussion.

GA 2019 in Spokane, WA, will be a beautiful blend of a General Assembly and a General Conference, providing us with an opportunity to do deep faith-rooted reflection, contemplation, and discernment. We will consider who we are as a faith, who we want to be, and how our bylaws, policies, procedures, and practices help (and hinder) us.

Thank you for joining us in the business of living our faith.

In Faith,

Mr. Barb Greve and Elandria Williams

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

## **RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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Consideration of and action upon items must proceed in the order set forth in the Final Agenda unless during the meeting that order is changed by majority vote.

## **RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING**

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So long as a quorum is present, action on any question, unless the Bylaws otherwise provide, will be decided in the first instance by an uncounted show of voting cards and off-site delegate input. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that at least 99 of the other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. No vote will be taken by written ballot unless the Assembly orders a written ballot by a two-thirds vote. Provided a quorum is present at each General Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the Assembly will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates and Trustees voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates and Trustees to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

## **RULE 3. MINUTES**

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The Board of Trustees will approve the minutes of the General Assembly General Sessions, which will be prepared by the Recording Secretary in consultation with Legal Counsel.

## **RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**

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The provisions of Rule 5 notwithstanding, the Board of Trustees and/or the Commission on Social Witness will, at their discretion, move the item as printed on the Final Agenda or move an amended version of the item.

## **RULE 5. AMENDMENTS**

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Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion will not be in order until there has been at least 15 minutes of discussion, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. The Moderators may, at their discretion, entertain a motion to amend the main motion before 15 minutes of discussion has taken place.

Amendments to a business resolution, a bylaw, a rule, a Statement of Conscience, or a proposed amendment must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered in the General Session. No amendment or other change to any motion under consideration will be entertained unless it is submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the Moderator, who may, however, waive this requirement.

Only the section of particular bylaws that are proposed to be amended may be amended during GA. The remaining text of a bylaw, which may have been printed for the convenience of the reader, may not be amended. The Moderator will determine whether a particular section of text is eligible for amendment.

## **RULE 6. TIME LIMITS**

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The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

- a) No person may speak on any motion for more than 2 minutes, and not more than once, so long as there are others who have not spoken who desire the floor, except that persons having special information may, with the permission of the Moderator, reply to questions.
- b) Thirty minutes are allowed for discussion of any proposed bylaw or rule amendment, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda. This time includes time devoted to discussing any amendments to the proposed amendment. Before debate begins, time will be provided for people to informally discuss the agenda item with others sitting around them; this informal discussion time will not count towards the thirty-minute limit. Motions to refer or table the question will be in order only after 15 minutes of debate, as long as that much discussion is needed. Any motion to extend the time or debate must be made from the procedural microphone before time for debate expires. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between people who are in favor of the motion and people who have concerns with the motion through equitable recognition of speakers at microphones designed "Pro" and "Con" and off-site delegates in "Pro" and "Con" queues.
- c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones whether on-site or offsite, and 7 minutes for discussion has not expired. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a motion to call the previous question is in order if there has been at least 5 minutes of discussion concerning the main motion and

there are no speakers at either the pro or con microphones, whether on-site or off-site.

- d) Time taken at the Procedure microphone for procedural questions will not count against pro or con discussion time until thirty minutes has expired.

## **RULE 7. MICROPHONES**

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- a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated “Pro” or “Con” and off-site “Pro” and “Con” queues is limited to statements in support of or to raise concerns with the motions. Concerns raised at the “Con” microphone should be substantial enough that the speaker is not ready to support the motion on the table.
- b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone or off-site queue designated “Amendment” is limited to presenters of motions and members of the Board of Trustees who may use the microphone only for:
1. Making an amendment to a main motion or another amendment, provided the motion is otherwise in order;
  2. Using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and
  3. Stating the Board of Trustees’ position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board take a position.
- c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone or off-site “Procedure” queue.

## **RULE 8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, and at the Moderator’s discretion may from time to time order the meeting resolved into a Committee of the Whole or reconvened in regular Session. While the meeting is acting as a Committee of the Whole, the following Special Rule will apply:

The Presiding Officer, without a vote of the Committee of the Whole, may permit reconsideration of any action taken by the Committee of the Whole and other departures of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure if it appears to the Presiding Officer that the work of the Committee of the Whole will thereby be expedited. When the General Assembly is reconvened, the only

motion in order will be to adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. A motion recommended by the Committee of the Whole will not be subject to amendment, discussion, or delay.

## **RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION**

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Any motion concerning the 2018–2019 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing in the Volunteer Office no later than 5:00 PM Saturday, June 23. All such motions must comply with Rule G-10.1.4. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

## **RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA**

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A Resolution or Action not on the Final Agenda may be considered only under the following circumstance:

Under Bylaw Section 4.16(d), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the General Assembly.

The author of a Responsive Resolution must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of the Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 23 for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in General Sessions 1 through 5.

## **RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES**

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Pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12(a): In a year in which Congregational Study/Action Issue(s) are proposed, up to five Congregational Study/Action Issues may be presented to the General Assembly. A sponsor of a Congregational Study/ Action Issue determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible for consideration will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining the vote necessary to be selected as the Congregational Study/Action Issue referred for study. Following the presentation by the sponsors for all Congregational Study/Action Issues eligible for consideration, time will be provided for up to four additional statements of support for each Congregational Study/Action Issue. Persons wishing to speak shall use the microphone or off-site queue designated for the Congregational Study/ Action Issue for which they advocate.

After discussion and debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written or electronic ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

the delegates and Trustees for which one of the Congregational Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Congregational Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two Issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.

## **RULE 12. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS**

- a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth in the Exhibit Hall must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.
- c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(3) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the Volunteer Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness will provide a summary of up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria during Saturday morning's General Session.
- e) Each sponsor of a proposed Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.
- f) Delegates and Trustees will vote by ballot for up to three AIWs that they would like to see added to the final agenda.
- g) After the tellers count the ballots, the CSW chair will make a motion to add to the agenda each of the three proposed AIWs with the most votes. Those that receive a two-thirds vote are admitted to the Final Agenda for a vote at a subsequent General Session.
- h) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- i) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(5). The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone.
- j) Up to twenty minutes will be allowed for debate,

if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. No amendment shall be in order unless there have been at least seven minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness. A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones whether on-site or offsite, and seven minutes for discussion has not expired. Motions to refer or table the question will be in order after 15 minutes of debate, as long as that much discussion is needed.

- k) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during General Session on Sunday. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(6). Proposed AIWs are not in competition with one another as are proposed Congregational Study/Action issues. Each of the proposed AIWs admitted to the Final Agenda may be adopted or rejected by the delegates & Trustees.

## **RULE 13. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

These Rules of Procedure will be adopted by a two-thirds vote and may be amended, suspended, or repealed during the course of the Assembly only by a two-thirds vote, except for the preceding Rule 9, the amendment, suspension, or repeal of which requires a four-fifths vote.

## **RULE 14. PRECEDENCE OF THE BYLAWS AND RULES**

In the event of a conflict between these Rules of Procedure and the Bylaws or Rules of the UUA, the Bylaws and Rules of the UUA take precedence.

## **RULE 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The final business session of the 2018 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, 2018.

# PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE

## CSAI – 1 UNDOING INTERSECTIONAL WHITE SUPREMACY

1 **Issue:** Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy culture operates economically,  
2 institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone’s chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is  
3 also the nation’s most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth  
4 and all living things.

5 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism:** White supremacy culture shaped everything we consider norms,  
6 which recent experience has pushed us to analyze. Sociologist Robert Bellah challenged us to make  
7 “the interdependent web of all existence the first of your principles and not the last.” Decentering  
8 whiteness calls us to decenter individual dignity for our collective liberation.

9 **Topics for Congregational Study:** White supremacy operates intersectionally. Beyond black and white  
10 and interwoven with other forms of oppression, it is multiracial and intersects with issues of class and  
11 income, gender, age, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and more.

- 12 • How are people socialized into various overlapping supremacy systems, creating a white dominated  
13 hetero patriarchy that serves the interests of US corporatism?
- 14 • How do different racial and economic strategies get applied to different racial groups, often  
15 disguised in coded language that pretends to be colorblind while having racialized impacts?
- 16 • How can we, as UUs, build transformative relationships of trust and accountability across race lines?

17 Through reflection and action, courageous conversations should foster our abilities to de-center  
18 whiteness and other “isms”. At the core we must equip UUs to work inside and outside our  
19 congregations, building trust by following the leadership and direction of the most vulnerable in society.

### 20 **Possible Congregational/Regional Actions:**

- 21 • provide ongoing training and education in antiracism and anti oppression on a multi- and inter-  
22 generational basis to all who wish to deepen their understanding of the impacts of intersectional  
23 white supremacy.
- 24 • build local relationships with people of color and other oppressed people, inside and outside  
25 our congregations, so that agendas and strategies for social justice efforts respond to the real  
26 vulnerabilities they face.
- 27 • mobilize UUs to participate in community organizing that is guided by accountable partnerships.

28 Actions can include street protest, advocacy work, resource sharing, local, regional, and national  
29 campaigns, letter-writing, community asset building, and more. The key is organizing with strategic  
30 accountability while building sustainable communities of resistance. This work should happen in  
31 the areas of environmental racism, mass incarceration and police brutality, reproductive freedom,  
32 immigration, access to quality health and education systems, and more.

33 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** There are few social witness statements from the last ten  
34 years that do not have implications regarding intersectional white supremacy. Here are some standouts:  
35 Reaffirmation of Commitment to Racial Justice (2016), Support the Black Lives Matter movement (2015),  
36 and Reproductive Justice, (2015). Robert Bellah’s 1998 Ware Lecture is another resource.

# PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE

## CSAI – 2 DISMANTLING INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSION

37 **Issue:** Systemic injustices intersect across environment, race, gender and all other forms of oppression.  
38 Identifying the underlying mechanisms which enable systemic and intersecting injustices enables us to  
39 mitigate their harm. Intersectional justice calls us to work together across oppressions and become a  
40 movement of movements.

41 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism:** Our faith calls us to witness for justice. We affirm respect for the  
42 interdependent web of all existence. An unfortunate aspect of the interdependent web is intersectional  
43 oppression. Greater awareness of intersectional oppressions makes our anti-racism, animal wellbeing,  
44 environmental, economic, and other justice work much more effective. This work calls us to decenter  
45 individualism for our collective liberation.

46 **Topics for Congregational Study:** Intersectional oppressions reinforce each other therefore a holistic  
47 approach grounded in awareness is required to mitigate harm and expand justice. No one escapes  
48 formative acculturation. This catches each of us in a web of oppression. By examining and acting to  
49 undo this acculturation, we gain liberation and justice for all.

50 Some questions to consider:

- 51 1. What is intersectionality, and how has that definition evolved? What does it mean to approach  
52 oppressions in an intersectional way?
- 53 2. How can understanding humans' perceived dominance over other species and nature inform how  
54 humans oppress humans? What was the original oppression?
- 55 3. How are people socialized into various overlapping supremacy systems, creating a white  
56 heterosexual patriarchy dominated culture that serves the interests of the powerful?
- 57 4. What are current illustrations of intersectionality, intersectional oppression, and intersectional justice  
58 in your community?
- 59 5. What is our ethical obligation to individuals - individual humans, individual nonhuman animals, etc.?  
60 Does individual suffering matter regardless of species?
- 61 6. How can we as UUs build transformative relationships of trust and accountability across race lines?
- 62 7. What human economic, social, cultural, and/or religious systems degrade or destroy the quality of  
63 life experienced by all inhabitants of Earth?
- 64 8. Animals eating other animals is part of our evolution and has seemed normal and natural. If healthful  
65 and ample plant based food is accessible and affordable by human animals, is it ethical to exploit  
66 nonhuman animals for food?
- 67 9. Douglas Hofstadter in his book *I Am a Strange Loop* subscribes to the concept known as the  
68 narrative self: the notion that the idea of the self is ultimately a hypothetical construct – a story our  
69 brains spin which generates the illusion that there is a single, stable and unified locus of willing,  
70 thinking and choosing which constitutes our "I." Hofstadter posits a scale based on the degree to  
71 which an entity can generate stories of self which he calls soul. The scale is normalized to humans,  
72 so humans are at 100% soul and mosquitos, with virtually no ability to create stories of self, have  
73 perhaps 0.01% soul. How does this idea fit with the inherent worth and dignity of all beings?
- 74 10. How do different racial and economic strategies get applied to different racial groups, often  
75 disguised in neutral-sounding yet coded language which pretend to be colorblind while actually  
76 having racialized impacts?
- 77 11. Five years from now, what difference would you see in your community if a highly effective widely

# PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE

78 drawn coalition worked together for intersectional social justice? What existing groups might come  
79 together to form the coalition?

80 Courageous conversations, reflection, and action can foster our abilities to decenter whiteness and  
81 other positions of power and privilege. Working inside and outside our congregations, we can build  
82 trust by following the leadership and direction of our most vulnerable neighbors.

## 83 ***Possible Congregational/Regional Actions:***

84 Actions can include street protest, advocacy work, resource sharing, local, regional, and national  
85 campaigns, letter-writing, community asset building, and more. The key is organizing with strategic  
86 accountability while building sustainable communities of resistance. Intersectional solutions should  
87 be sought which emerge from the complex web of our interrelatedness, rather than from the fallacy  
88 that justice is a zero-sum game. This work could happen in the areas of environmental racism, mass  
89 incarceration and police brutality, reproductive freedom, immigration, access to quality health, food, and  
90 education systems, animal wellbeing, and more. For example:

- 91 1. Provide ongoing training and education in antiracism and anti-oppression on a multi- and inter-  
92 generational basis to all who wish to deepen their understanding of the impacts of intersectional  
93 white supremacy and intersectional human supremacy.
- 94 2. Build local relationships with people of color and other oppressed people, inside and outside  
95 our congregations, so that agendas and strategies for social justice efforts respond to the real  
96 vulnerabilities they face.
- 97 3. Educate congregations and regions about intersectional justice, including the historically  
98 disproportionate impacts of pollution and climate change on people of color, economically  
99 disenfranchised communities, and nonhuman species.
- 100 4. Mobilize UUs to participate in community organizing that is guided by accountable partnerships.
- 101 5. Work to understand and dismantle white supremacy culture in the environmental movement and  
102 other organizations charged with protecting the web of life.
- 103 6. Study the overlapping impacts of global climate change and white supremacy in current climate  
104 disasters and governmental response and rebuilding, and the impacts of nonhuman individuals in  
105 those communities
- 106 7. Learn about the economic, environmental, cultural, and spiritual impacts of separating first nations  
107 peoples from their traditional lands.
- 108 8. Host a compassionate potluck to invite discussion about the challenges and celebrations of our  
109 relationships with other species, the humans who labor to provide our food, and the economic and  
110 social forces that shape those processes.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The UUA's bylaws were first drafted in the 1960s and continue to carry the biases and limitations of the times when they were first written. Historically, the UUA was organized as a nonprofit corporation modeled on the New England businesses that emphasized fiscal conservatism and prudence. We need our bylaws to reflect the faith community we are and that we want to be: adaptive, creative, flexible, and grounded in relationships and linkage, while striving toward being anti-oppressive, anti-racist and multicultural. Currently, our bylaws are not accessible, are rooted in distrust of authority, and do not anticipate the speed of communication with modern technology. As we move into the future, let us strive for a smaller set of bylaws that can liberate our leaders and members to do faithful, sustaining ministry. To that end, this year we are proposing bylaws changes that are necessary for our faith to reimagine what our leadership and governance model could become. This is just the beginning and we will continue our conversations in the years to come.

**Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.**

## 1. CHANGE TO PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

*This proposed C-Bylaw amendment was submitted by petition from over 15 certified congregations in 2017. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote at this GA.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 111 **ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes**

#### 112 **Section C-2.1. Principles.**

113 The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- 114 • Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves
- 115 us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- 116 • Words and deeds of prophetic **[women and men] people** which challenge us to confront powers
- 117 and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;

## 2. CONGREGATIONAL LINKAGE

*This proposed amendment was submitted by the Joseph Priestly District.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 118 **Section 6.16. Congregational linkage**

119 **The Board of Trustees shall establish and maintain a means by which congregations may**  
120 **communicate directly with the Board concerning governance of the Association, and receive from**  
121 **the Board timely responses to such communications. The means established by the Board shall be**  
122 **distributed to congregations.**

## 3. VOTING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS

*This proposed amendment was submitted by petition from over 15 certified congregations.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 123 **Section 4.8. Delegates**

- 124 (b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates. Each certified member
- 125 congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained
- 126 minister or ministers in ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such congregation,
- 127 and by the director or directors of religious education **who are active members of the Liberal**
- 128 **Religious Educators Association [having achieved Credentialed Religious Educator – Masters**
- 129 **Level status by the Association]** and employed in such congregation. In addition, each certified
- 130 member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by any
- 131 minister emeritus or minister emerita of such congregation in ministerial fellowship with the
- 132 Association and by any director of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved
- 133 Credentialed Religious Educator – Masters Level status by the Association designated as such
- 134 by a vote at a meeting of the member congregation not less than six months prior to the General
- 135 Assembly, provided that any such minister has been settled previously in such congregation, and
- 136 any such director of religious education who has been previously employed in such congregation.

## 4. YOUTH TRUSTEE

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 137 Section 6.3. Membership.

138 The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

139 (a) the President, without vote, the Moderator and the Financial Advisor; **[and]**

140 **(b)** eleven trustees **[elected at large]; and**

141 **[(b)](c) two youth trustees who, as of the date they commence service as trustees, are of high school**  
142 **age, or the equivalent, and are able to complete their term while of high school age.**

### 143 Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.

144 (a) One-third, as nearly as possible, of the **non-Youth** members of the Board of Trustees shall be  
145 elected at each regular General Assembly.

146 (b) The Board of Trustees shall assign a number to each trustee position for the purposes of  
147 electing trustees.

148 **(c) One Youth Trustee shall be elected at each regular General Assembly.**

### 149 Section 6.5. Term.

150 **(a)** Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they  
151 are elected, and shall serve for terms of three years and until their successors are elected and  
152 qualified. Any partial term of more than two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of  
153 this Section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms. However, a trustee may  
154 at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office  
155 as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has served as an elected  
156 officer for a full term or as a trustee for two full terms shall thereafter be elected a trustee without  
157 an interim of at least three years.

158 **(b) A Youth trustee shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at**  
159 **which they are elected, and shall serve for a term of two years and until their successors are**  
160 **elected and qualified. No Youth trustee may serve more than one term. The term of a Youth**  
161 **trustee is equivalent to one full term as defined in Section 6.5, for the purposes of eligibility**  
162 **for election as a trustee.**

### 163 Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.

164 (a) Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation. A trustee who ceases to  
165 meet these qualifications shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. Not more than  
166 one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a  
167 member of a member congregation in which another trustee is already a member, such trustee  
168 shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules  
169 for the application of this Section to persons holding membership in more than one member  
170 congregation.

171 **(b) Youth trustees shall be a member of a member congregation if their congregation allows for**  
172 **youth membership. If their congregation does not allow for youth membership, the President,**  
173 **Minister or Religious Educator of that congregation shall submit a written notice to the**  
174 **Nominating Committee of the Youth trustee's affiliation with the congregation before the**  
175 **person may be nominated to serve as a Youth trustee. A Youth trustee shall not be a member**  
176 **of or be affiliated with the same congregation as the other Youth trustee or a non-Youth**  
177 **trustee.**

### 178 Section 6.11. Special Meetings.

179 Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the Moderator or President, and shall be  
180 called by the Moderator at the request of eight trustees. Notice of special meetings shall be given in  
181 writing not less than five nor more than sixty days before the meeting and shall state the agenda, time  
182 and place of the meeting.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

## 183 **Rule G-9.13.2. Order of Names on Ballot.**

184 On all ballots used in elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined by the  
185 drawing of lots done by the Secretary and witnessed by two other persons; provided, however, that  
186 the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees, other than Youth trustee, shall be by Board  
187 position number first, and then as determined above. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing  
188 of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's  
189 office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.

## 5. GENDER NEUTRAL PRONOUNS

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 11:15 a.m. in 2215 A.*

*The following language will be added to the updated bylaws, following the Table of Contents and before the enumerated lines of bylaw text:*

190 The pronouns "they" and "their" are used in these Bylaws and Rules in place of the singular gender  
191 pronouns "he," "she," "his," and "hers," and refer to a single individual unless the context indicates  
192 otherwise.

### 193 **Section 8.3. Term of Office.**

194 (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly and shall  
195 take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.

196 (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six years and until their [his or her]  
197 successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; and any  
198 partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to  
199 office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of  
200 this subsection.

201 (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall serve for a term of six years and until their [his or her]  
202 successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term; and  
203 any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election  
204 to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes  
205 of this subsection.

206 (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of three years and until  
207 their [his or her] successor is elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve  
208 more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by  
209 reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall  
210 be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

### 211 **Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.**

212 In the event an Executive Vice President should be appointed, the Board of Trustees shall describe  
213 their [his or her] duties.

### 214 **Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.**

215 The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at large. The Secretary may appoint a  
216 committee of tellers to count ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall decide any  
217 question arising during such an election concerning:

218 (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to  
219 election procedures;

220 (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the  
221 Rules; or

222 (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

223 The Secretary's decision shall be final. The Secretary shall remain neutral in the election and shall not  
224 engage in electioneering, except for advocacy of their [his or her] own candidacy for offices for which  
225 they are [he or she is] nominated.

## 226 **Section 10.12. Indemnification of Trustees, Officers, Employees, and Volunteers.**

227 The Association, to the extent legally permissible, shall indemnify any trustee, officer, employee of the  
228 Association or volunteer elected by a General Assembly or appointed by the Board of Trustees of the  
229 Association to serve the Association, or persons formerly holding such positions, against all liabilities  
230 and expenses (including court costs, attorneys' fees, and the amount of any judgment or reasonable  
231 settlement, fines and penalties) actually and necessarily incurred by any such person, subsequent to  
232 the adoption hereof, in connection with the defense of any claim asserted or threatened to be asserted  
233 against any such person, or any action, suit or proceeding in which any such person may be involved as  
234 a party, by reason of being or having been such trustee, officer, employee or volunteer or by reason of  
235 any action alleged to have been taken or omitted by any such person as such trustee, officer, employee  
236 or volunteer, except with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been adjudicated in  
237 any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that **their [his or her]** action  
238 was in the best interests of the Association; provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a  
239 compromise payment by such person, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification  
240 either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise and  
241 indemnification therefore shall be approved:

- 242 (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of disinterested trustees;
- 243 (b) if such quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of a committee of the Board of  
244 Trustees consisting of all the disinterested trustees;
- 245 (c) if there are not two or more disinterested trustees in office, then by a majority of the trustees  
246 then in office, provided they have obtained a written finding by independent legal counsel  
247 appointed by a majority of the trustees to the effect that, based upon a reasonable investigation  
248 of the relevant facts as described such opinion, the person to be indemnified appears to have  
249 acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that **their [his or her]** action was in the best  
250 interests of the Association;
- 251 (d) if not resolved by (a), (b) or (c), above, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

252 If authorized in the same manner specified above for compromise payments, expenses, including  
253 attorneys' fees actually and necessarily incurred by any such person in connection with the defense  
254 or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding may be paid from time to time by the  
255 Association in advance of the final disposition thereof upon receipt of (a) an affidavit of such individual  
256 of **their [his or her]** good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for  
257 indemnification under this Section and (b) an undertaking by such individual to repay the amount so  
258 paid to the Association if such person shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under  
259 this Section, which undertaking may be accepted without reference to the financial ability of such  
260 person to make repayment. The right of indemnification herein provided shall inure to the benefit of  
261 the heirs, executors and administrators of each such trustee, [or] officer, employee or volunteer and  
262 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any such person may be entitled under any  
263 statute, bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise or to which any such person might have been  
264 entitled were it not for this provision. As used in this Section, an "interested" trustee or officer is one  
265 against whom in such capacity the proceeding in question, or other proceeding on the same or similar  
266 grounds, is then pending.

## 267 **Rule 4.6.2. Time of Notice.**

268 Notice so sent shall be sufficient if mailed at Boston, Massachusetts, sixty days before any such General  
269 Assembly, addressed to the persons who according to the records of the Association are entitled  
270 thereto hereunder and sent to the addresses which appear on said records. When the Secretary in **their**  
271 **[his or her]** absolute discretion finds it desirable and practicable, a copy of the notice shall be inserted  
272 in the denomination's publication most widely circulated within the denomination, in the issue which will  
273 be circulated as near to sixty days before the General Assembly as possible.

## 274 **Rule G-9.13.5. Balloting at General Assembly.**

275 A person shall be qualified to cast a ballot at General Assembly only if that person presents to the  
276 Secretary of the Association or those employed by **them [him or her]** a properly certified ballot stub plus a  
277 badge issued to that person and containing the same name as the name on the ballot stub. An electronic  
278 ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

## 6. COMMITTEE TERMS

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 11:15 a.m. in 2215 A.*

### 279 Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.

280 Except as otherwise provided, the terms of members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees  
281 shall be two years beginning at the close of the regular General Assembly **[in odd-numbered years]**.  
282 Members shall be appointed no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Members shall take  
283 office upon the effective date of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed  
284 and qualified.

## 7. SOCIAL WITNESS PROCESS TIMELINE

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 285 Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.

286 The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process is to provide the member congregations of  
287 the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue.  
288 The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement  
289 of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the  
290 congregations to take effective action. The process for adoption of UUA Statements of Conscience shall  
291 be as follows:

#### 292 (a) First Cycle Year

293 (1) Each member congregation **or covenanting community [, district, and sponsored**  
294 **organization (as designated by the Board of Trustees),]** may submit to the Commission  
295 on Social Witness by October 1 in the year preceding a General Assembly one proposed  
296 Congregational Study/Action Issue, such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to  
297 be approved at a duly called meeting of its members or its governing board at which a  
298 quorum is present. This commences the process of a **three [four]** year UUA Statement of  
299 Conscience cycle (“the Cycle”). A Cycle year ends at the close of General Assembly.

300 **[(2) The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the**  
301 **Board of Trustees for inclusion on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General**  
302 **Assembly not more than ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, each of**  
303 **which shall be based in whole or in part on the issues submitted to it as described**  
304 **in the previous subsection. The Commission on Social Witness shall verify with the**  
305 **proposing congregation or sponsored organization that the proposed Study/Action**  
306 **Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to being included in the poll ballot. The**  
307 **ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be included for approval**  
308 **by the congregations on the Congregational Poll ballot, such ballot to be available**  
309 **and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 of the same year.**  
310 **Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action**  
311 **Issue shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).]**

312 **[(3)](2)** For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda  
313 of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must  
314 participate in the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action  
315 Issues.

316 **[(4) The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be ranked in the order of the**  
317 **votes received in the Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving the most**  
318 **votes (not to exceed five in number) shall be submitted to the General Assembly as**  
319 **follows:]**

320 **[(i)](3)** Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the  
321 General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action  
322 Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- 323 among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly;  
324 provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a  
325 majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues  
326 receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.
- 327 **[(ii) After one Congregational Study/Action Issue has been referred for study in  
328 accordance with (i), above, the UUA staff shall conduct a workshop to discuss  
329 processes for study and action on the selected issue. By November 1 following  
330 the General Assembly, the UUA staff shall have developed a resource guide  
331 pertaining to the Congregational Study/Action Issue selected by the General  
332 Assembly. The resource guide shall be made available and congregations  
333 notified of its availability.**
- 334 **(5) If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in the previous year, the  
335 regular meeting of the General Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the  
336 implementation of such UUA Statement of Conscience.]**
- 337 **[(6)](4)** If no proposed Congregation Study/Action Issues are on the Final Agenda in the first  
338 Cycle year, or if no Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by the  
339 General Assembly, then following the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the  
340 Cycle shall begin again as set forth in this subsection.
- 341 (b) Second Cycle Year
- 342 **[(1) Member congregations shall submit by not later than March 1 of the second Cycle  
343 year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related  
344 resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.]**
- 345 **[(2)]** During the meeting of the General Assembly in the second Cycle year the Commission  
346 on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.
- 347 (c) Third Cycle Year
- 348 (1) **[Member congregations shall submit by not later than March 1 of the third Cycle year  
349 comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource  
350 guide to the Commission on Social Witness.]**
- 351 **[(2)] [During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the Commission on Social  
352 Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.]**  
353 Following the General Assembly **in the second Cycle year**, the Commission on Social  
354 Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of Conscience.
- 355 **[(3)]** The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, **[a draft Statement of Conscience  
356 congregational comment form,]** and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of  
357 Conscience on the Final Agenda **during General Assembly in the third Cycle year**  
358 shall be included in the Congregational Poll, **[to be made available and congregations  
359 notified of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of  
360 the availability of these items shall be given to the congregations. Congregational Poll  
361 ballots and the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement  
362 of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).**
- 363 **(4) The Commission on Social Witness shall then prepare a revised draft of the UUA  
364 Statement of Conscience taking into consideration comments received by the  
365 member congregations and place this revised draft of the UUA Statement of  
366 Conscience on the Final Agenda.**
- 367 **(5) For a draft UUA Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the  
368 General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must  
369 participate in the ballot vote concerning such draft UUA Statement of Conscience.]**
- 370 **[(d) Fourth Cycle Year]**
- 371 **[(1)](2)** If the draft UUA Statement of Conscience is placed on the Final Agenda for the next  
372 regular meeting of the General Assembly, then the next General Assembly must  
373 debate and vote on the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience. Adoption of the UUA

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

374 Statement of Conscience shall require a two-thirds vote.

375 **[(2)](3)** If **(a)(i)** the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not placed on the Final Agenda  
376 for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly; or **(b)(ii)** the General Assembly  
377 chooses, by a two-thirds vote, to refer the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience  
378 to the Commission on Social Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the  
379 Commission of Social Witness shall continue the study and revision of the proposed UUA  
380 Statement of Conscience for one more year. The revised UUA Statement of Conscience  
381 may be placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General  
382 Assembly pursuant to subsection **[s] (b) [(c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5)]** above. If by the regular  
383 meeting of the General Assembly following the additional year the Commission on Social  
384 Witness has been unable to find support to generate an acceptable UUA Statement of  
385 Conscience, the Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the Final Agenda  
386 with a proposal to drop such Congregational Study/Action Issue.

387 **[(3)](4)** Following the regular meeting of the General Assembly in the **third [fourth]** Cycle year,  
388 the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in Section 4.12(a) above.

389 **[(e) The Cycle may begin again, as set forth in Section 4.12(a), only after the General Assembly in**  
390 **the second Cycle year of a Congregational Study/Action Issue, and as provided in Sections**  
391 **4.12(a)(6) and 4.12(d)(3).]**

## 392 Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies.

393 (a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters may be admitted to the agenda  
394 by a regular General Assembly.

395 (b) **[Prior to 2018, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the**  
396 **agenda.**

397 **(c)]** (1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness is one concerned with a significant  
398 action, event or development, the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to  
399 be addressed by a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.

400 (2) No more than three General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to  
401 the agenda of a regular General Assembly.

402 (3) **[A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to the agenda must be submitted**  
403 **by a delegate and signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations. If six**  
404 **petitions or fewer are received, all petitions received that have the requisite level**  
405 **of delegate and congregation support are eligible to be considered for possible**  
406 **admission to the agenda. In the event more than six petitions are submitted that**  
407 **satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the Commission on Social Witness shall select**  
408 **six from among those which meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action of**  
409 **Immediate Witness, and shall submit those six actions to the agenda of the General**  
410 **Assembly for possible admission. The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare**  
411 **summaries of no more than six petitions and present those summaries to the General**  
412 **Assembly for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate support. The three**  
413 **petitions receiving the most votes are eligible for admission to the agenda. If there are**  
414 **submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria for a General Assembly Action**  
415 **of Immediate Witness, each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the agenda.**

416 **(4)]** The motion to admit each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness ruled eligible  
417 is not debatable, but an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy to the  
418 General Assembly for each eligible action by one of its sponsors prior to any such  
419 motion shall be provided. Admission of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness  
420 shall be by a two-thirds vote.

421 **[(5) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each**  
422 **admitted action shall be discussed and amendments shall be accepted in writing.**  
423 **All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly.**  
424 **The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize each General Assembly Action of**  
425 **Immediate Witness, and the chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in**

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- 426 consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian, and  
427 legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the  
428 General Assembly.
- 429 (6)](4) [Adoption] Affirmation of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness shall be by a  
430 two-thirds vote.
- 431 [(7)](5) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16[(c)](b) must be in writing and filed with  
432 the Chair of the Commission on Social Witness or the Commission's designee by the  
433 deadline established by the Commission and announced at the opening session of the  
434 General Assembly.
- 435 [(d)](c) Responsive Resolutions may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and  
436 acted upon.
- 437 (1) A Responsive Resolution is a resolution made in response to a substantive portion of a  
438 report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly.
- 439 (2) [Adoption] Affirmation of a Responsive Resolution shall be by two-thirds vote.

## 8. CO-MODERATOR ROLES

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 11:15 a.m. in 2215 A.*

### 440 Section 8.8. Moderator.

- 441 (a) The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings of the Board of Trustees and  
442 the Executive Committee. The Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions  
443 and shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as Chief Governance Officer  
444 of the Association.
- 445 (b) As used in these Bylaws, the term "Moderator" may refer to a single individual, or to multiple  
446 individuals, serving in the position, even though the word "Moderator" may appear in the  
447 singular form of the word.

### 448 Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

- 449 (a) For the position of President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee. If there are no more than  
450 two duly nominated candidates for a position, the candidate receiving the greater number of  
451 votes is elected; provided, however, that (i) in construing the foregoing with respect to Trustee  
452 positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective position; and  
453 (ii) in construing this section, a duly nominated candidate for the position of Moderator may  
454 consist of more than one person. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for  
455 a position, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc.,  
456 choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving  
457 the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be  
458 redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be  
459 repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates  
460 remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.

## 9. DISTRICT/REGION UPDATES

*This proposed amendment was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees.  
The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in 2215 A.*

### 461 Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.

- 462 A special General Assembly may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon  
463 petition of not less than fifty certified member congregations by action of the governing boards or their  
464 congregations. No more than twenty of the fifty congregations may be from the same district or region.