

# Unitarian Universalist Association

42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

June 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Boston, Massachusetts



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A g e n d a

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# **Business Process**

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## **MINI - ASSEMBLIES**

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in Plenary Session. Mini-Assemblies offer opportunities in small sessions for delegates to speak on issues, find out more about individual business items before a vote in plenary, and propose amendments to the business item or social witness statement. The Planning Committee or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

## **BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies on Friday at 2:45 p.m. in rooms 301, 305; 308; and 205 in the Hynes Convention Center. The Planning Committee is responsible for these sessions and, immediately afterward, meets to consolidate results and formulate any amendments to be proposed.

## **UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE (ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION)**

Discussion of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience takes place in the Mini-Assembly Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 302 of the Hynes Convention Center. The vote to adopt is scheduled for a Plenary Session.

## **FIRST-YEAR STUDY/ACTION ISSUES**

Five First-Year Study/Action Issues (SAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the poll called Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action. Discussion of these SAIs takes place in a workshop Friday at 8:45 p.m. in room 302 of the Hynes Convention Center prior to voting in the Plenary Session for one Issue for study and action during the coming two years.

## **SECOND-YEAR STUDY/ACTION ISSUE (CIVIL LIBERTIES)**

No vote is taken this year on the Study/Action Issue that was chosen by the last year's General Assembly. A workshop will be held Saturday at 3:15 p.m. in Ballroom A of the Hynes Convention Center, and those who engaged in study and action on the Issue are invited to share experiences at this time. Based on the discussion, the Commission on Social Witness will draft a UUA Statement of Conscience for consideration during the coming year.

## **ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS**

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the GA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Preliminary action on AIWs will be taken in Plenary Session on Sunday, and Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs will be held Sunday at 5:15 p.m. in rooms 301, 303; 305, 308; 310; and 313 of the Hynes Convention Center, prior to voting for adoption Monday afternoon.

## **BUDGET HEARING**

UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2003 - 2004 budget Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 303 of the Hynes 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 GA Office in room 109 of the Hynes Convention Center by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, for consideration Monday.

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# How to Make Things Happen

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## Unofficial Guide of How to Make Things Happen During GA Plenary

### TO SPEAK

You must be recognized by the Moderator, and to be recognized you must be at a microphone. The Moderator recognizes you by calling your microphone number.

Any **DELEGATE** may speak; others need the consent of the Moderator or vote of the Assembly to admit the speaker to the floor. (This happens only rarely.) Once recognized, identify yourself (name and society from which you are a delegate), e.g., “I’m Chris Doe from Rip Roaring 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.

There are four types of microphones: PRO, CON, PROCEDURE and AMENDMENT

- ⇒ To speak in favor - go to a **PRO** mike.
- ⇒ To speak against - go to a **CON** mike.
- ⇒ To make an amendment – go to the **AMENDMENT** Table.
- ⇒ 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.

**TIME USED ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES IS INCLUDED** in the time set for debating the item on the floor. Procedural issues must be raised at the Procedure microphone. They take precedence over discussion.

The **AMENDMENT** mike is used only for making an amendment.

### DEBATE

**THERE MUST BE 15 MINUTES OF DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION AS PRINTED** (or as presented by the Planning Committee 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 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** except for amendments to the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience where there is 40 minutes of discussion first. Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. *Only one amendment may be presented at a time.* (There cannot be an amendment to an amendment.) Do not propose another amendment while the first one is being debated.

An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a Study/Action Issue into a Business Resolution. Before an amendment may be presented to the delegates, it must be presented in writing at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike.

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. You may make a substitute motion at some times but must recognize it as such.

# How to Make Things Happen

## VOTING

Delegates vote by

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

Any delegate may call “Division” if a counted vote is desired. This is one time when recognition at a mike is not needed. 24 other delegates must join the request (when asked) to force the counted vote.

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each Plenary Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace, if lost, and you cannot vote without your card. As a delegate, you may not give your voting card to anyone else to use.

## MINI-ASSEMBLY

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates in a relatively small group to propose amendments to business items and discuss the proposed amendments. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a social witness statement during plenary debate if it was not submitted at the mini-assembly. Mini-Assemblies save Plenary Session time and permit freer debate than plenaries do.

The UUA Bylaws require Mini-Assemblies for

- Business Resolutions and Bylaw Changes
- Statement of Conscience after two years of study and action
- Actions of Immediate Witness.

After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in Plenary Session, the Planning Committee 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.

## BUDGET HEARING

At the Budget Hearing questions may be answered, but no motions may be made. Motions

must be made in writing by the time announced in 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.

## ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that delegates may wish to address immediately. These are matters ripe for immediate statement, without waiting for the two-year Study/Action process to precede public statement.

**HOW MANY ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA?** Six

**HOW CAN I GET AN ACTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS ON THE AGENDA?** Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the CSW booth. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by the Friday deadline. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures to the Commission at the GA Office by the Saturday deadline. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

**WHAT HAPPENS THEN?** The Commission will select six from among those submitted which meet the criteria for an AIW. These will be submitted to delegates for admission to the Agenda. The motion to admit is not debatable, but there will be an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy by a sponsor of each AIW. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, each AIW will be voted on by the delegates for adoption by the General Assembly.

## TO GET YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED

**PLAY FAIR.** These guidelines 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.** You want to get information, not give it. At any time a delegate may request “Point of Information” from any

## How to Make Things Happen

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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.** (You are not physically comfortable or your ability to do business is being hampered.) Any delegate may request a "Point of Personal Privilege" (from any microphone.) You go to any 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 microphone 2" or "Our section was not counted."

**POINT OF PROCEDURE.** You use this for questioning parliamentary procedure. A delegate may interrupt debate by going to any microphone and saying "Point of Procedure" and wait to be recognized. A sample point is "Is this not a second generation amendment? We cannot have an amendment to an amendment," or "Was a vote taken?"

**RULES OF PROCEDURE** are adopted at the start of the Assembly. They are printed (as proposed but not necessarily as adopted) as the first item on the Final Agenda.

**NEED INFORMATION?** Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Planning Committee. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each Plenary Session. When the Assembly is not in session, look for one of them at the GA Office. The Bylaws are in the Program, and a copy of Robert's Rules of Order is at each microphone.

**DO YOU HAVE AN AMENDMENT? ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WORDING?** Time constraints at the Plenary Sessions preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered. Informal sessions are held where preliminary work can be done on items on the Agenda.

### 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 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 moves that the Committee of the Whole "rise and report" specifying the agreed-upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the Plenary 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.

**LATE ARRIVING ITEMS MAY REQUIRE  
REARRANGEMENT OF THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED**

**THURSDAY PLENARY I 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

- 7:00 Opening Celebration  
Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Approval of Rules of Procedure  
Welcome To New Congregations  
Announcements (Wayne Arnason)  
Introduction of General Assembly Planning Committee
- 9:00 Recess

**FRIDAY PLENARY II 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

- 8:25 Song  
Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Preliminary Credentials Report (Wayne Arnason)  
Introduction of International Guests (Olivia Holmes)  
President's Report (William Sinkford)  
Song  
Financial Advisor's Report (Larry Ladd)  
Finance Committee Report (Gini Courter)  
2004 Budget  
Annual Program Fund  
Beacon Press  
Board of Trustees Report  
Song  
Our Association's Commitment to a Journey Toward Wholeness  
Beacon Press Books (Helene Atwan)  
Update on Commission on Social Witness Process (Richard Nugent)  
Energy Break Invitation (Ed Wilde)  
Announcements (Wayne Arnason)
- 12:00 Recess

**FRIDAY PLENARY III 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.**

- 12:55 Song
- 1:00 Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Commission on Appraisal (Janis Sabin Elliot)  
Executive Vice President's Report (Kay Montgomery)  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office  
Nominating Committee/Committee on Committees (Young Kim, Calvin Dame)  
Recognition of Retiring Elected Office Holders/Committee Members  
Welcome to Incoming Elected Office Holders/Committee Members
- 2:15 Recess

# Agenda

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## **SATURDAY PLENARY IV 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

- 8:25 Song  
8:30 Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Presentation of 5 Study Action Issues  
Debate and Vote on Study Action Issues  
Survey on Study Action Issues  
Song to Open Justice Segment  
Moderator's Report (Diane Olson)  
Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee (James Hobart)  
Director of Advocacy and Witness (Meg Riley)  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation  
Committee on Socially Responsible Investing  
Energy Break  
Debate and Vote on Statement of Conscience  
Runoff Vote on Study Action Issues (If needed)  
Survey on Statements of Conscience  
Plenary Process Observations (UUA Board Member)  
Announcements (Wayne Arnason)  
12:30 Recess

## **SUNDAY PLENARY V 1:15 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.**

- 1:10 Song  
1:15 Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Vote on Section C-12.2 Bylaw Proposal; Establishment of Districts  
Vote on Section 4.12 Bylaw Proposal; UUA Statements of Conscience  
Vote on Business Resolution:  
Registry of Marriages, Same-Sex Unions, Domestic Partnerships  
Melcher Book Award  
Response to Reports of Officers  
Song  
Sunday and Monday Commission on Social Witness Process (Richard Nugent)  
Presentation of Six Actions of Immediate Witness  
Song  
Meadville/Lombard Theological School  
Starr King Theological School  
Energy Break  
Congregational Conversations of Conscience  
Distinguished Service Award  
Plenary Process Observations (UUA Board Member)  
Announcements (Wayne Arnason)  
4:45 Recess

## **MONDAY PLENARY VI 2:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

- 2:25 Song
- 2:30 Call to Order (Diane Olson)  
Vote on C-2.31 Bylaw Proposal; Non-discrimination  
Vote on Rule G10.1.3; Estimated Income  
Vote on Six Actions of Immediate Witness  
Song  
Survey on Actions of Immediate Witness Process  
General Assembly Service Project Report  
Thank General Assembly Planning Committee, Volunteer Committee, Jan Sneegas  
Invitation to Long Beach General Assembly (Barbara Atlas)  
Final Credentials (Wayne Arnason)  
Plenary Process Observations (UUA Board Member)
- 6:30 Adjourn

# Rules of Procedure

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

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**

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 hands/voting cards, or by an uncounted standing vote of the delegates present. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that 24 other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Study/Action Issues for Social Justice (Rule 11), no vote will be taken by written ballot unless the delegates order a written ballot by a two-thirds vote. Provided a quorum is present at each Plenary Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the delegates will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

## **RULE 3. MINUTES**

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

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

The provisions of Rule 5 notwithstanding, the Planning Committee 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**

Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion and motions to refer, table or to call the question will not be in order until there has been at least fifteen minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. 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.

## **RULE 6. TIME LIMITS**

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, 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 two 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 is 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. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between proponents and opponents and by the alternate recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con.
- 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 and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question on a motion to amend the main motion is in order after 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment.

## **RULE 7. MICROPHONES**

- a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated "Pro" or "Con" is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.

b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone 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 takes a position.

c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone.

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

At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, at his or her discretion from time to time may 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 him or her 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, debate, or delay.

## **RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION**

Any motion concerning the 2003 - 2004 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such

motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing at the General Assembly Office not later than 5:00 p.m. Sunday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

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

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

- a) under Bylaw Section 4.16, which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions;
- b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.

## **RULE 11. STUDY/ACTION ISSUES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12(c):

Up to five Study/Action Issues for Social Justice may be presented to the General Assembly. A sponsor of a 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 Study/Action Issue referred for study. Following the presentation by the sponsors for all Study/Action Issues eligible for consideration, 50 minutes will be allowed for debate. Persons wishing to speak in the debate shall use the microphone designated for the Study/Action Issue for which he/she advocates and the Moderator will recognize speakers at each microphone, in turn.

After debate concerning the proposed Study/Action Issues, a written ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates for

# Rules of Procedure

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which one of the Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no 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. UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE**

- a) One hour will be allowed for debate. No amendment shall be in order unless there has been at least 40 minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience.
- b) A motion to amend a proposed UUA Statement of conscience is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a mini-assembly as described in Rule 4.12.4.

## **RULE 13. 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 must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, 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(b)(2) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the General Assembly Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Saturday.
- d) Each sponsor of an Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda under Bylaw Section 4.16(b) will

have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.

- e) The sponsor will move admission at a Plenary Session scheduled before vote on the action is to occur and when called upon to do so by the Moderator.
- f) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- g) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a mini-assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(4).
- h) Thirty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness. No amendment shall be in order unless there has been at least 15 minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness.
- i) Adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness may occur only during the final Plenary Session of the Assembly and must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(5).

## **RULE 14. 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 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The final business session of the 2003 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 30.

# Study/Action Issues – First Year

*The five Study/Action Issues presented here were selected by certified congregations to be placed on the Agenda. The vote on the following SAIs will be to determine which one shall be referred to congregations and districts for further review and study in the Statement of Conscience process, pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12. An Implementation session on this chosen SAI will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday.*

## S1 Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Issue:** What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote the abolition of weapons of mass destruction, recognizing that their development and deployment threaten all life and that their use would destroy life on a mass scale?

**Background and Reasons for Study:** Biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons comprise the deadly trinity of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). These weapons threaten the basic security of every creature on the planet, and their existence, testing, and deployment devastate our environment, lead to life-threatening health problems, and further destabilize international conflicts. The fall of the Soviet Union set the stage for a number of power realignments in the geopolitical community, spurred by increased economic interdependence resulting in development of WMD by “rogue” nations and the rise of terrorism. As long as WMD stockpiles are maintained throughout the world, we all live with the threat that they will be intentionally or accidentally deployed or detonated resulting in at best a global public health disaster and at worst the destruction of life on this planet. The United States maintains WMD, while demanding other nations, particularly those in the developing world, destroy their WMD stockpiles. This is a dangerous form of hypocrisy, especially as WMD have become an easy way for small countries to gain relatively more power. With the fear, real or perceived, that WMD are controlled by dangerous leaders, other forms of warfare and economic oppression are undertaken, which instill widespread mistrust and hostility in the populace of those nations. As the United States increasingly withdraw from treaties that have curtailed the nuclear buildup, the hostility of other nations increases and the threat of nuclear warfare escalates.

**Significance to Unitarian Universalism:** Unitarian Universalists have long opposed possession of weapons of mass destruction. Possession of such weapons may seem to be justified for purposes of protective self-defense, but the effects of their actual use make losers of all, whether combatants or not, offenders or not. Users of such weapons commit a kind of suicide that renders war incidental to the indiscriminate destruction by the weapons themselves. Unitarian Universalists must continue to oppose any such instruments for the indiscriminate destruction of human life and property.

### **Possible Study Questions:**

- § What changes need to take place—both within and outside the United States—for WMD to be eliminated?
- § Who are the WMD manufacturers, what else do they own, and how do they influence defense policy?
- § What are the environmental and health risks of various weapons of mass destruction if they are deployed or if they deteriorate or otherwise contaminate their surroundings?
- § What are the risks to the global community of turning back the clock on agreements such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?

## Study/Action Issues – First Year

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### 39 **Possible Actions:**

40 § Educate yourself about the evolution of WMD, their deployment and use, international treaties  
41 that address nuclear disarmament, and how nuclear weapons figure in the realities of economic  
42 globalization.

43 § Sponsor congregation- and community-based adult education forums to learn about the history  
44 of the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and what strategies are most  
45 effective in advancing their abolition, both in this country and globally.

46 § Sponsor forums, letter writing campaigns, and delegations to your congressional leaders to  
47 register concern about the United States current reluctance to reduce nuclear arsenals and to  
48 renege on longstanding treaties.

49 § Link with umbrella organizations such as Abolition 2000 to access educational resources and  
50 participate in advocacy campaigns in which your voice will be leveraged by their institutional  
51 experience and clout.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** National Missile Defense System (AIW 2000); Mutual Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban (Gen 1985); Condemnation of Knapsack Nuclear Weapons (Gen 1985); Nuclear Free Zone (Gen 1985); Support for a Great Peace March for Nuclear Sanity (Gen 1985); No First Use of Nuclear Weapons (Gen 1984); Nuclear Freeze (Gen 1983); Halting the Arms Race (Gen 1983); Nuclear Disarmament (Gen 1982); The New Abolitionism (Gen 1982); Nuclear Weapons (Gen 1979); Nuclear Proliferation (Gen 1977); Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Gen 1966); Nuclear Weapons Testing (Gen 1962); Disarmament and Test Ban Treaty (Gen 1961).

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## S2 Indigenous Peoples

53 **Issue:** What can Unitarian Universalists do to be better neighbors and provide collaborative  
54 support for indigenous peoples regarding cultural, financial, political, and environmental  
55 concerns?

56 **Background and Reasons for Study:** The gross injustices committed by the United States  
57 against indigenous peoples continue today. The film industry reinforces bigoted historical  
58 accounts that blind the dominant culture to any view of America's original inhabitants other than  
59 demeaning stereotypes. United States government policies have layered injustice upon injustice;  
60 virtually all treaties made between the federal government and Native American governments  
61 have been broken by the United States. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian  
62 Medical Service were established 120 years ago to protect the interests of indigenous peoples,  
63 but forced relocation, destruction of social and cultural structures, and systemic discrimination  
64 against indigenous peoples and their descendants have left survivors without the opportunity for  
65 citizenship or veterans' benefits, without equal education or health care, and without adequate  
66 access to financial resources. The 1989 United Nations Convention on Human Rights was  
67 intended to protect indigenous peoples with respect to their social, cultural, religious, and  
68 spiritual values, and their practices and institutions.

69 **Significance to Unitarian Universalism:** Unitarian Universalists have been strong opponents of  
70 ethnic cleansing abroad. Now we are called to look clearly at our practices at home in dealing  
71 with different nations within our geographical borders and to undertake a moral assessment of  
72 whether the treatment of indigenous peoples here is subject to characterization as ethnic  
73 cleansing.

### 74 **Possible Study Questions:**

75 § How can we access North American history from the point of view of indigenous peoples?

## Study/Action Issues – First Year

- 76 § How do land disputes disrupt traditional indigenous peoples’ practices affecting livelihood and  
77 indigenous medicine?  
78 § What is the current status of the American Indian Movement and one of its leaders, Leonard  
79 Peltier, who is serving a life sentence in federal prison?  
80 § How are Native American traditions, rituals, and symbols appropriated by the dominant  
81 culture, including Unitarian Universalists?  
82 § How does the United States government’s treatment of indigenous peoples compare to  
83 contemporary cases of ethnic cleansing, such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and South  
84 Africa?

### 85 **Possible Actions:**

- 86 § Urge members of the United States Congress to honor the rights of safe passage for indigenous  
87 peoples across the Mexican and Canadian borders.  
88 § Learn about the work of the Unitarian Universalist Network on Indigenous Affairs.  
89 § Support the efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to build partnerships on  
90 reservations; participate in the UUSC’s Just Works Program.  
91 § Select books and films by indigenous peoples for reading, viewing, and discussion groups.  
92 § Join with the Ohio-Meadville District UU’s in endowing medical help to the Tuba City  
93 Medical Center, or develop other comparable local or district actions.  
94 § Work with groups such as the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media to end the use  
95 of stereotypical “Indian” images.  
96 § Forge collaborations with American Tribal Councils through the Office of Tribal Self-  
97 Governance.  
98 § Partner with Native American efforts for recovery and repatriation of remains and artifacts and  
99 for the protection of sacred sites.  
100 § Include indigenous peoples in the scope of your congregational and district anti-oppression  
101 work.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Economic Injustice, Poverty, and Racism: We Can Make a Difference (SOC 2000); Fair Treatment for Native Americans (AIW 1998); Solidarity with the San Carlos Apache Regarding Mt. Graham (AIW 1997); Justice for Indigenous Peoples (Gen 1993); Opposing Extradition of Dennis Banks (Gen 1975); Native Americans (Bus 1975); Indian Rights (Gen 1970).

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## S3 Human Rights and Peace

103 **Issue:** How can Unitarian Universalists help utilize the United Nations Universal Declaration of  
104 Human Rights as a basis for building peaceful relations among nations and peoples?

105 **Background and Reasons for Study:** In 1948, after the atrocities and devastation of World War  
106 II, the United Nations General Assembly ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
107 (UDHR). Since then the world has become smaller, more complex, and less secure. Separate and  
108 diverse cultures have come into intimate connection and violent conflict. The effective  
109 sovereignty of nation states has come into question as transnational corporations and  
110 international terrorists increase their influence over the lives of world citizens. Imperial  
111 ambitions of the one remaining super-power, the United States, have produced anxiety and  
112 resentment throughout the nations of the world. Appropriate standards for the exercise of power  
113 and justice, within a world order that governs through a respect for fundamental human rights, as  
114 agreed in the UN Declaration 55 years ago, may offer an alternative to the present course of

## Study/Action Issues – First Year

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115 terrorism, militarism, and the terrible waste of violent engagement. These human rights offer us a  
116 foundation on which to build a new social contract among the peoples of the earth.

117 **Significance to Unitarian Universalism:** Unitarian Universalists have long defended the rights  
118 of individuals regardless of nationality. Universal Human Rights entitle and empower individuals  
119 around the globe to certain conditions of life, liberty, dignity, justice, and personal identity. Our  
120 common faith compels us to speak out and to reach out in aid of those whose rights have been  
121 denied. For our own sake and for the sake of future generations, we are called to help mend the  
122 brokenness of our human family.

### 123 **Possible Study Questions:**

124 § What are human rights? How are human rights embodied in our Unitarian Universalist  
125 principles, and how can our religious practices teach us how to build bridges of understanding  
126 with others?

127 § How does the UDHR help us resolve interpersonal differences, and inter-cultural differences?

128 § What human rights powers and responsibilities can be brought to bear on national, corporate,  
129 and inter-personal parties to a conflict that would lead to agreement?

130 § How do economic sanctions result in human rights abuses?

131 § When is it permissible to subordinate independent authority for the sake of a higher good, such  
132 as when the United States abides by a United Nations declaration? Who has the power to make  
133 such decisions?

### 134 **Possible Actions:**

135 § Read and discuss *In Our Own Best Interest – How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All* by  
136 the Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, former  
137 Unitarian Universalist Association president; use this book as the focus for a discussion circle  
138 in your congregation.

139 § Learn about the United Nations and the UDHR, and who benefits from them and who does not.

140 § Marshall a loud constituent voice for the advancement of universal human rights by writing  
141 your legislators, inviting them to speak, and engaging them in a long-term dialogue.

142 § Have worship services that connect human rights and Unitarian Universalism and the current  
143 world situation.

144 § Collaborate with the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office and explore ways your  
145 congregation can help Unitarian Universalists be louder voices for human rights.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Reaffirming Support for the United Nations (Gen 1990);  
Establishment of the US Academy of Peace and Conflict Resolution (Gen 1983); Human Rights and War (Gen 1980); Sharing in  
the New Call to Peacemaking (Gen 1979); Human Rights Covenants (Gen 1972); Statement of Consensus on the United Nations  
(Bus 1969); Cooperative Religious Program for Peace (Bus 1967); Human Rights Conventions (Gen 1965); Commending Pope  
John XXIII's Encyclical "Peace on Earth" (Gen 1963).

## 146 **S5 Criminal Justice and Prison Reform**

147 **Issue:** How can Unitarian Universalists successfully advocate for reform of the criminal justice  
148 and prison systems, even as the prison industry expands to accommodate more people and  
149 becomes increasingly inhumane and unjust?

150 **Background and Reasons for Study:** Since 1980, the prison population has quadrupled; 6.6  
151 million people, over three percent of the adult population, are incarcerated or under community  
152 supervision. Seventy percent of state prison inmates are non-violent offenders. At the same time,

153 the Congress and many states' legislatures have steadily reduced rehabilitation programs and  
154 decreased other support services designed to rehabilitate prisoners and enable them to contribute  
155 to society once they are released. Even more troubling are private prisons, which are less  
156 accountable to the people and must turn a profit in order to remain in business. In the United  
157 States, traditionally oppressed minorities account for a disproportionate number of convictions  
158 and are more likely to experience first-hand the inherent injustices of the prison system. The  
159 criminal justice and prison systems have especially detrimental effects on families, particularly  
160 families of color. In 1999, nearly 1.5 million youth had at least one incarcerated parent, and  
161 many jurisdictions are choosing to try youth as adults.

162  
163 Although some of the crimes for which criminals have been convicted include the most  
164 unconscionable acts, this does not serve as justification to deny prisoners basic human rights. In  
165 some cases, inmates are subjected to fourteen-hour workdays and being shackled and beaten.  
166 The overarching goal of American prisons should be restorative justice to help prepare violators  
167 of the fundamental moral codes of our society for reentry into society, not to exploit them for  
168 labor or treat them as objects for abuse. As DNA technology has shown that some prisoners are  
169 in fact innocent, we should demand wider use of such technologies to ensure that the innocent  
170 are not unjustly punished.

171 **Significance to Unitarian Universalism:** Although many do not feel directly affected by the  
172 criminal justice and prison systems' practices, we are likely the beneficiaries of services and  
173 goods produced through prisoner exploitation. Unitarian Universalists have consistently stood up  
174 for the right of the oppressed and of workers, and we should not excuse ourselves from speaking  
175 out because of the stigma attached to the incarcerated.

### 176 **Possible Study Questions:**

177 § What can we do to help those already incarcerated? How can we advocate for wider  
178 recognition of the need to uphold human rights in the prison system?

179 § How can sentencing guidelines be made equitable across race and class?

180 § How much does it cost per annum to incarcerate one prisoner in your state? In the federal  
181 prison system? How might these funds be better allocated for rehabilitation programs that do  
182 not require incarceration?

183 § Do existing crime prevention programs work, and who benefits from them?

184 § How is the criminal justice system being used to avoid public health issues, such as  
185 incarcerating the mentally ill in lieu of providing psychiatric treatment?

### 186 **Possible Actions:**

187 § Help support the families of incarcerated persons, for example, creating programs to benefit  
188 their children.

189 § Visit a prison and then write articles for local media to inform the public on prison-related  
190 issues.

191 § Collaborate with minority-based organizations to work against abuses and inequities in the  
192 criminal justice and prison systems.

193 § Develop education programs to increase community awareness of crime prevention and  
194 prisons.

195 § Advocate for respectful working conditions for inmates.

196 § Learn about and collaborate with the efforts of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists for  
197 prison reform.

## Study/Action Issues – First Year

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**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Working for a Just Economic Community (Gen 1997); Community-Based Correctional Programs (Gen 1978); Penal Reform (Gen 1977); Criminal Justice (Gen 1975); Reform of Courts and the Penal System (Gen 1974); Penal Reform (Gen 1971); Model Penal Code (Gen 1962).

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### S7 Civil Unions and Same-Sex Marriage

199 **Issue:** What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote recognition of civil unions and eventually  
200 same-sex marriages?

201 **Background and Reasons for Study:** An analysis of the 2000 census data by the Human Rights  
202 Campaign estimates that there are more than 10 million gay and lesbian individuals in the United  
203 States. This study further estimates that more than 3 million of these individuals reside in same-  
204 sex households. These couples have historically faced major obstacles to securing rights taken  
205 for granted by heterosexual couples in committed relationships. Over the past few decades, there  
206 has been a growing movement demanding an end to discriminatory policies. Only one country in  
207 the world, the Netherlands, currently allows same-sex marriage. Following a 1996 Hawaiian  
208 court decision that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violated the state constitution, a  
209 legislative maelstrom swept the nation, pitting individuals on either side of the gay marriage  
210 question against each other. Thirty-six state legislatures have enacted “Defense of Marriage  
211 Acts” that deny same-sex couples the right to marry, and other states have similar legislation  
212 pending. In a momentous legal and political victory in 2000, Vermont enacted legislation  
213 allowing civil unions for same-sex couples. The Vermont civil union statute provides for a  
214 comprehensive legal status parallel to marriage. The protections in the Vermont civil union law  
215 include: the right to be treated as an economic unit for state tax purposes; greater access to  
216 family health insurance policies; the ability to obtain joint policies of insurance and joint credit;  
217 parenting rights; preferences for guardianship of and medical decision-making for an  
218 incapacitated spouse; the right to leave work to care for an ill spouse; hospital visitation rights;  
219 the right to control a spouse’s body upon death; automatic inheritance rights; and the right to  
220 divorce, including an orderly method for ascertaining property division as well as child custody  
221 and support. Four additional jurisdictions (California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, and  
222 Hawaii) as well as various cities and counties throughout the United States permit same-sex  
223 couples to register as “domestic partners,” which extends to them certain legal rights,  
224 protections, and benefits. In Canada, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba have enacted  
225 legislation that allows gay and lesbian couples as well as unmarried opposite-sex couples to  
226 record their relationships in a civil registry.

227 **Significance to Unitarian Universalism:** For decades Unitarian Universalists have been at the  
228 forefront of the fight for gay and lesbian rights. The Unitarian Universalist Association endorsed  
229 civil union ceremonies in 1984, and same-sex marriages in 1996. As many other organizations  
230 are helping to gain public support for same-sex marriage, Unitarian Universalists can offer a  
231 religious voice that embraces diversity and rejects intolerance. It may be that convincing states to  
232 legitimize civil unions can serve as a useful step on the way to their willingness to legitimize  
233 same-sex marriage.

234 **Possible Study Questions:**

235 § What is marriage? When exclusive partnerships between one man and one woman first became  
236 a societal norm, what societal purposes did such a union fulfill? Does it still fulfill those  
237 purposes?

238 § In what specific ways are state-recognized marriages different from civil unions?

## Study/Action Issues – First Year

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239 § What is the status of same-sex marriage and domestic partnership legislation in your state?

240 **Possible Actions:**

241 § Work with any organizations in your state advocating recognition of civil unions or same-sex  
242 marriages.

243 § Form a book group to read *What Is Marriage For?* by E.J. Graff, using Beacon Press's  
244 discussion guide that accompanies the book.

245 § Host forums on the issues that bring together congregants, community activists, and political  
246 leaders.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Support of the Right to Marry for Same-Sex Couples (RIW 1996);  
Gay and Lesbian Services of Union (Bus 1984); Gay Human Rights (Bus 1977).

## Economic Globalization

Revised Draft Statement of Conscience (April 2003)

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

### Summary of the Statement of Conscience

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Economic globalization has helped countless people attain higher standards of living. It has also marginalized and impoverished innumerable others and has resulted in environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources. Economic globalization brings many benefits, but its benefits have been inequitably distributed and have not reached many ordinary people around the world. Seeing the world as an interconnected web challenges us to turn from self-serving individualism toward a relational sense of ourselves in a global community of all living things, and toward practices that help create economic structures designed to serve the common good. We are called to bring our Unitarian Universalist principles to our understanding of economic globalization and to help mitigate its adverse effects.

### Economic Globalization and Its Consequences

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Economic globalization, broadly understood, is the growing global integration not only of markets but also of systems of finance, commerce, technology, and law that bypass traditional national, cultural, and social boundaries.

Proponents of economic globalization argue that it leads to more efficient division of labor, greater specialization, increased output, generation of wealth, higher standards of living, and ultimately to the end of poverty. Opponents argue that economic globalization detaches markets from essential regulations meant to protect national sovereignty, the democratic process, human rights, labor rights, and the environment. The policies and practices of industrialized countries and transnational corporations drive and strengthen the market forces of economic globalization. Recent economic growth has greatly contributed to the high standard of living enjoyed by many within the developed world and has raised living standards of many people formerly living in abject poverty. Many others have not made such gains.

The rules governing economic globalization have been created through trade agreements, international law, and institutions dominated by industrialized countries. These rules favor those with access to capital, legitimizing measures such as dropping tariffs, eliminating capital controls, enforcing intellectual property rights, privatizing public services, and weakening regulations that protect labor, health and safety, and the environment. Economic globalization is increasingly perceived by the rest of the world as American economic imperialism. Many Americans, accustomed to an individualistic and competitive culture, are insensitive to the realities of abject poverty, cultural erosion, and environmental degradation. Systematic exploitation of labor and the environment thus goes unnoticed as do coercive monopolistic pricing of goods and services, criminal evasion of local legal controls, growing debt among developing countries, widening economic gaps between people, and devastation of traditional cultures. Together these factors generate profound anger and despair that fuel ideological and religious fundamentalism, increasing violence, and international terror.

### 283 **A Unitarian Universalist Response to Economic Globalization**

284 As people of faith, we are challenged to find ways to promote global economic fairness while  
285 maintaining the dynamism of the marketplace. As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and  
286 promote:

- 287 • **The acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth, and a free and**  
288 **responsible search for truth and meaning.** We are called to better understand the  
289 complexities of economic globalization, mindful that deeper global awareness enriches our  
290 individual and communal spirituality. We must resist the arrogance of supposing that our own  
291 experience of truth is universal. We affirm the value of congregational study groups devoted to  
292 a cyclical process of study, reflection, and action that includes monitoring the products and  
293 services we consume, the ways we consume them, the costs we bear to secure them, and the  
294 burdens we place on others in so doing.
- 295 • **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and justice, equity,**  
296 **and compassion in human relations.** Industrial countries need to open their markets to  
297 agricultural goods, textiles, and other products from developing countries. We must become  
298 more effective advocates for increased funding of international economic, environmental, and  
299 humanitarian assistance as well as the expansion of educational opportunity. Existing debt of  
300 the poorest nations should be forgiven as part of a strategy under which such countries become  
301 self-sustaining. Certain public goods like water, medicines, and education, must remain under  
302 the protection of the state for the benefit of all citizens. We need to work to ensure that  
303 intellectual property provisions in international trade agreements take into account the rights of  
304 all people to medications, seed, fertilizer, and pest control.
- 305 • **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within society at large.** We  
306 must commit to participate in local, state, and national affairs regarding economic  
307 globalization, and to partner with other progressive community organizations to advocate for  
308 just economic policies and laws. We need to hold our political and corporate leaders  
309 accountable for their policies and actions. We advocate for the increased use of socially  
310 screened investment policies and participation in shareholder accountability initiatives. Trade  
311 agreements, such as NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Agreement) and the FTAA  
312 (Free Trade Area of the Americas), should safeguard national sovereignty of all partners and  
313 not supercede democracy. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade  
314 Organization, and other international financial and trade institutions must become transparent  
315 and democratic and support self-determination for communities and countries.
- 316 • **The inherent worth and dignity of every person.** We are called to participate in the work of  
317 organizations that advocate for human rights, fair employment standards, and environmental  
318 protections. Countries have the responsibility to require foreign and domestic companies to pay  
319 fair taxes, ensure their workers a locally defined living wage, provide a healthy and safe work  
320 environment, and respect the right of their workers to bargain collectively in independent labor  
321 unions. The standards of the International Labour Organization of the United Nations should  
322 be incorporated in all trade agreements. We advocate measuring the success of an economy  
323 not only by fiscal performance but also by quality-of-life indicators such as infant mortality  
324 rates and education levels.

## Statement of Conscience

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- 325 • **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.** We open our  
326 minds and hearts to the ideas, ideals, and dreams of others pursuing a more equitable and  
327 environmentally sound global community. We must advocate for trade agreements and other  
328 international accords that safeguard the environment, and we must monitor their enforcement.  
329 We need to hold corporations, as well as governments, accountable for the damage they do to  
330 the environment by their policies and practices. We need to purchase goods and services  
331 produced and sold in accord with environmental, health and safety, and fair wage standards.  
332 We acknowledge our own responsibility to refrain from disproportionately consuming natural  
333 resources or transforming resources into waste and pollution.

### 334 **Conclusion**

335 We are challenged by the reality that many of us work for the very institutions driving economic  
336 globalization. We acknowledge our fears and resistance to change as we benefit from the global  
337 economic processes that foster inequity. The transformation we experience as we move from  
338 ignorance to knowledge and from speech into action is not easy. Nonetheless, we are called to  
339 become competent advocates. Seeing the world as an interconnected web challenges us to turn  
340 from self-serving individualism toward a relational sense of ourselves in a global community of  
341 all living things, and toward practices that help create economic structures designed to serve the  
342 common good.

*Background: This revised draft Statement of Conscience of the Unitarian Universalist Association builds upon five social witness statements on economic, environmental, and labor issues adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association between 1972 and 2001. In June 2001, the General Assembly of the UUA selected "Economic Globalization" as the issue suggested to congregations for two years of study, action, and reflection. The Commission on Social Witness (CSW) received initial reports from congregations and districts in March 2002. In June 2002, the CSW held a workshop on this issue at General Assembly. A draft Statement of Conscience was distributed to all congregations and districts for their reflection and feedback. Comments were reviewed by the CSW at its March 2003 meeting. This revised draft will be on the final agenda of the June 2003 General Assembly. A Mini-Assembly will be held on Friday afternoon, June 27 to receive proposed amendments. After final revision by the CSW, the draft Statement of Conscience will be debated by the General Assembly. A two-thirds vote is required for passage. The text of other UUA Statements of Conscience can be found at the CSW website ([www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw)).*

## Bylaw and Rule Amendments

### **Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments**

*brackets = deletion; underlining = insertion*

*Adoption requires a two-thirds vote, except for C-Bylaws. A proposal to amend a section of the Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a "C" must be placed on the agenda and approved by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly preceding the one at which it may be finally adopted. First-step approval requires a majority. Final adoption requires a two-thirds vote.*

**The following Bylaw amendments are placed on the agenda by the UUA Board of Trustees**

*This is a "housekeeping" amendment that changes language to conform with the current UUA staff structure.*

*Vote by Board of Trustees on the proposed amendment: For 22-0-0*

343 Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience

344 . . (c) (3) After one Study/Action Issue for Social Justice has been referred for study in accordance  
345 with (ii) above, the **[Department of Faith in Action] Advocacy and Witness staff** shall conduct a  
346 workshop to discuss processes for study and action on the selected issue, and shall make available a  
347 preliminary study/action packet to all attendees of the General Assembly. Such packet shall be  
348 mailed to all congregations promptly following the General Assembly.

349 An additional package of educational materials prepared by the **[Department of Faith in Action]**  
350 **Advocacy and Witness staff** pertaining to the selected Study/Action Issue for Social Justice shall  
351 be mailed to the member congregations and the districts not later than the last Friday in October  
352 immediately following the General Assembly. . . .

*The following proposed amendment changes non-discrimination language to conform with more current understandings from our anti-oppression work.*

*Vote by Board of Trustees on the proposed amendment: For 23-0-0*

353 Section C-2.3. Non-discrimination.

354 The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member  
355 congregations and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their  
356 activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, **[color, sex,] ethnicity,**  
357 **gender,** disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, **language, citizenship status, economic**  
358 **status,** or national origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion  
359 or to any particular religious belief or creed.

## Bylaw and Rule Amendments

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*This deletion, recommended by the UUA Finance Committee and Board of Trustees, acknowledges actual practice in setting Annual Program Fund goals.*

*Vote by Board of Trustees on the proposed amendment: For 23-0-0*

360 Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income.  
361 Income amounts in the budget for the Current Fiscal Year shall represent the Board's best estimates  
362 of income from all sources. Income from the Annual Fund as so estimated shall be an amount  
363 which is not more than 7 per cent greater than the actual Annual Fund income of the fiscal year  
364 preceding the Current Fiscal Year. In the budget for the Succeeding Fiscal Year income from the  
365 Annual Fund shall be estimated at an amount which represents the Board's best estimate of the  
366 achievable results for such year. **[The estimate of the Annual Fund income for the Succeeding**  
367 **Fiscal year recommended by the Board or adopted by the General Assembly shall become the**  
368 **Annual Fund goal for the Current Fiscal Year.]**

*This Bylaw change was approved by the 2002 General Assembly and will need final approval this year if it is to pass. It provides for more clarity in the way in which congregations are assigned to districts.*

*Vote by Board of Trustees on the proposed amendment: For 23-0-0*

369 **Section C-12.2. Establishment.**  
370 [Districts shall be established by action of General Assemblies, which shall fix their boundaries  
371 after consultation with the member congregations affected thereby.] **The establishment of**  
372 **districts and the manner of determining which congregations are included in each district**  
373 **shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly.**

## Proposed Business Resolution

*The following Business Resolution was proposed by the Ballou Channing District.  
Adoption requires a two-thirds vote.*

*Vote by Board of Trustees on the proposed Business Resolution: Against 1-22-0*

374 **TITLE: "Registry of Marriages, Same-Sex Unions, and Domestic Partnerships"**

375 **Whereas:** The Unitarian Universalist Association, as a religious association, encourages respect for  
376 family relationships, and,

377 **Whereas:** The Unitarian Universalist Association understands the need for the formal recognition  
378 of the loving and committed relationships that exist between domestic partners and partners in  
379 marriage, including partners of the same sex, and,

380 **Whereas:** Many of the world's civil authorities have not yet provided adequate recognition of  
381 domestic partnerships, marriages, and same-sex unions;

382 Be it resolved that the 2003 General Assembly of the UUA directs that eighteen months from the  
383 adoption of this business resolution, the Unitarian Universalist Association establishes and  
384 maintains a registry for marriages and domestic partnerships that shall include, but not be limited  
385 to, marriages and domestic partnerships that involve partners of the same sex. Member societies of  
386 the Unitarian Universalist Association may submit records of domestic partnerships, marriages, and  
387 same-sex unions to be included in the Association's registry.

388 Be it further resolved that the Association establishes criteria and develops and issues forms for the  
389 purpose of registering marriages and domestic partnerships. Registry enrollment shall be voluntary  
390 and shall not interfere with individual privacy, ministry, or with congregational polity. The  
391 Association may charge reasonable fees for recording, amending, and making copies of registry  
392 documents.

# Congregational Directives for GA Action

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## RESULTS OF CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR GA ACTION 2003

ELIGIBLE BALLOTS: 202  
INELIGIBLE BALLOTS: 9

STUDY/ACTION ISSUES FOR FINAL AGENDA		YES	NO
S-1	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION	140	27
S-2	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	95	30
S-3	HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE	190	1
S-5	CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRISON REFORM	172	4
S-7	CIVIL UNIONS AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE	135	23

### STUDY/ACTION ISSUES NOT ON FINAL AGENDA

S-4	FACTORY FARMING	87	39
S-6	CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY	92	36
S-8	AGING IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY	94	34

### BUSINESS RESOLUTION FOR FINAL AGENDA

BUSINESS RESOLUTION FOR FINAL AGENDA		YES	NO
BR-1	REGISTRY OF MARRIAGES, SAME-SEX UNIONS, AND DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS	153	1

# BUSINESS CALENDAR FOR GA 2004 LONG BEACH

December 15, 2003	Deadline for receipt of proposed Study/Action Issues
February 1, 2004	Deadline for receipt of Annual Certification Form & UUA Directory Questionnaire (mailed to congregations in November, 2003)
February 1, 2004	Deadline for receipt of proposed Business Resolutions and Amendments to Bylaws and Rules
March 1, 2004	Tentative Agenda & Congregational Directives ballot mailed to certified congregations
March 1, 2004	Deadline for receipt of comments on first stage Study/Action Issue (to be determined) and proposed Statement of Conscience (Civil Liberties)
April 15, 2004	Deadline for receipt of Congregational Directives for GA Action ballots
May 10, 2004	Delegate credentials for General Assembly mailed to certified member congregations
May 25, 2004	Final Agenda mailed to congregations