



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

General Assembly Business Meeting Minutes

Fifty-Ninth General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association June 24-28, 2020

Note: all times are Eastern Time

The 2020 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While originally planned to take place in Providence, RI, the UUA Board approved a change to a virtual format in April 2020. GA was conducted on a custom online platform created by the UUA, based on the previous offsite delegate platform, with additional use of other applications such as Zoom meetings.

The theme of GA 2020 was “Rooted, Inspired and Ready.” This theme addressed the roots of Unitarian Universalism in the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and beginning of colonialism in New England through programs and partnership with a Remembrance Council of Indigenous leaders. It inspired attendees to continue the work of faithful and inclusive transformation by receiving the final report and recommendations of the Commission on Institutional Change. It helped UUs be ready to take action for electoral justice through the UU the Vote initiative.

Co-Moderators Elandria Williams and Rev. Mr. Barb Greve. convened virtually Wednesday, June 19, 2020, at approximately 7:45 p.m. On the basis of an initial report by the Secretary of the Association, a quorum was declared present from the time the meeting was called to order. The Assembly adopted, by a vote of two-thirds or more, Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

Notable Business Session Events

The Assembly received written or video reports from the President, the Co-Moderators, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Treasurer, the UUA Staff, Beacon Press, the Commission on Social Witness, the Commission on Appraisal, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation.

The UUA Commission on Institutional Change presented its final report and recommendations in the publication entitled *Widening the Circle of Concern*. The Commission’s presentation was followed by workshops which explored the themes of the report.

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The following awards were not made at GA this year: the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the President's Annual Award for Volunteer Service, and the Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

Co-Moderators Williams and Greve completed their tenure and were honored for their three years of service in a time of transition, challenge, and renewal for the UUA. New Co-Moderators Meg Riley and Charles Du Mond were installed in their role, having been chosen in an uncontested election.

Business Agenda Items – Business Resolution and Bylaw Amendments

The Assembly adopted the following bylaw amendments and business resolutions included on the GA Business Agenda by a vote of two-thirds or more. Bylaw amendments were placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees, and the business resolution was submitted by a petition signed by not fewer than 250 members of UUA certified congregations, with no more than 10 members from any one congregation.

Note - Underlining indicates insertion; [brackets] indicate deletion.

I. Business Resolution – Embodying Human Rights in Our Investment Decision

WHEREAS, the pursuit of social justice is at the heart of our identity as Unitarian Universalists; and

WHEREAS, we Unitarian Universalists are guided by our fundamental principles that uphold the worth of every human being; call for justice in human affairs; support the right of conscience and the democratic process; support a world community with peace and liberty for all; and declare respect for the interdependent web of existence; and

WHEREAS, we are also guided by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the associated UN Covenants and Conventions including the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

WHEREAS, the human rights of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color, women, LGBTQI2-S (Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Two-Spirit) people, immigrants, workers, religious minorities, [homeless] youth and other individuals experiencing homelessness, disabled people/people with disabilities, and people affected by mass incarceration living in the United States continue to be egregiously violated; and

WHEREAS, the human rights of groups in many countries of the world also continue to be systematically violated. Such groups include but are not limited to the Rohingya of Myanmar and the Uighurs of China who are abused based on religious and ethnic identities; factory workers forced to work without adequate pay in unsafe or unhealthy conditions; immigrants from the Americas, the Middle East and Africa fleeing war, violence, and ecological devastation; Palestinians who have suffered for decades from expulsion, land seizure,

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and denial of fundamental rights based on their ethnicity; immigrants and asylum seekers warehoused in private prisons in the US; and indigenous people of the Amazon and other parts of Latin America whose lands are taken from them or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, the human rights of all people to a secure future for themselves and their descendants continue to be threatened by climate change and by war, including the possibility of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, the current national and world systems that allow oppression and human rights violations to continue are massively affected and enabled by the policies and activities of private corporations; and

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists should not support or profit from corporations that are deeply complicit in human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists should oppose human rights abuses by using their relationships with corporations as consumers and investors to end corporate complicity with human rights abuses and environmental injustice, and to ensure that corporations abide by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the UUA has a long history of investing, shareholder activism and community investing in accord with social justice concerns through the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF) and its predecessors, which includes endowment funds of the UUA and of many UU congregations and affiliates and is managed by the UUA Investment Committee, and advised by the UUA Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Committee; and

WHEREAS, the UUA has the potential to build on its pioneering role in the SRI movement by strengthening and publicly promoting the UUCEF's SRI Guidelines with regard to human rights; and

WHEREAS, clear, regular and accessible communication between the UUA SRI and Investment Committees and UU social justice groups, congregations and individual UUs concerned about social justice issues can help improve the effectiveness and impact of UUA investment screening, corporate engagement and community investment;

THEREFORE:

1. Be it resolved that the 2020 General Assembly of the UUA calls upon the UUA to cease the purchasing of securities by the UUCEF in corporations that are consistently, knowingly and directly complicit in egregious human rights violations and violations of international law ("Human Rights Violators (HRV)") and calls on congregations, affiliates and individuals also to cease purchasing such securities; and
2. Be it further resolved that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to continue to divest the UUCEF holdings of directly held securities of HRV companies, if any, reaching full divestment of these companies within three years and calls on congregations, affiliates and individuals also to divest within this timeframe; and
3. Be it further resolved that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to continue to work with its current and prospective pooled-asset managers to incorporate Human Rights

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Due Diligence into their investment processes;¹

4. Be it further resolved that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to undertake a comprehensive review of the UUCEF's SRI Guidelines with regard to human rights concerns, identify significant gaps, if any, and amend the guidelines as necessary; and
5. Be it further resolved that this General Assembly requests the UUA to formalize mechanisms for communication between its SRI and Investment Committees and UU social justice groups, congregations and individual UUs concerned about social justice issues regarding development and implementation of the UUCEF's SRI Guidelines and the impact of UU SRI initiatives; and
6. Be it further resolved that notwithstanding any provision above, the UUA shall not take any action that is inconsistent with its fiduciary duty or that is incompatible with the principles of sound investment; and
7. Be it further resolved that notwithstanding any provision above, the UUA shall not take any action that precludes the use of shareholder advocacy regarding human rights issues and the purchase of the minimal shares necessary to permit the introduction of shareholder resolutions with HRV companies, moreover, the UUA will sell such shares when the engagement ends or when it seems that engagement cannot produce more results; and
8. Be it further resolved that the President and Treasurer of the UUA should prepare a written report for each General Assembly from 2021 through 2023 on our Association's progress on the above resolutions; and
9. Be it further resolved that this General Assembly encourages UUA affiliated organizations, individual UU congregations and individual UUs to examine their investments and corporate engagement plans to ensure support for the human rights of all people as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with its associated covenants and in the UUCEF's SRI Guidelines with a view to taking action to end human rights violations, such as public divestment of their holdings in HRV, supporting shareholder activism designed to end human rights violations, and investment in human rights supporting companies and ventures.

Sponsored by: UUs for Justice in the Middle East, Black Lives UU, UU Refugee and Immigration Services (UU RISE), UU Peace Ministry Network and UU Ministry for Earth. Endorsed by the UUA Investment Committee, Socially Responsible Investment Committee, UUA Board of Trustees

¹ <https://investorsforhumanrights.org/news/call-sign-ons-investor-case-mandatory-human-rights-due-diligence>

II. Bylaw Amendment – Co-Moderator Vacancy

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Section 8.7. Vacancies

- (a) Elected Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected officer shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Trustees. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election. If the position of Moderator is deemed vacant under Section 8.8 (b), the Board may, but shall not be obligated to, appoint as Moderator any remaining individual(s) who had been serving in the position of Moderator when the position was deemed vacant, and may do so either as a sole appointment or with one or more other individuals.

Section 8.8. Moderator.

- (a) The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as Chief Governance Officer of the Association.
- (b) As used in these Bylaws, the term “Moderator” may refer to a single individual, or to multiple individuals, serving in the position, even though the word “Moderator” may appear in the singular form of the word. When multiple individuals are serving in the position of Moderator, if one or more of those individuals dies, is disqualified, resigns, or is removed, the position of Moderator shall be deemed vacant under Section 8.7(a).

III. Bylaw Amendment – Nominating Committee Timelines

Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position to be filled, except Moderator and President, including positions to be filled by special election. With respect to Board positions, the Nominating Committee shall designate the position number for which each person is being nominated.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate individuals so that the membership of the Board of Trustees and each elected committee reflects the full diversity of the Association, especially in regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing amongst size of congregation, lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and gender, among others. The Nominating Committee shall consult with groups and organizations including those traditionally underrepresented in Unitarian Universalist leadership, to help inform the nominating process.
- (c) Only one person from any one member congregation shall be nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee or the Board of Trustees.
- (d) The [report of the] Nominating Committee shall issue a report with its nominations on or before March 15 of the year in which the nominees will be candidates for election. Nominations shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and distributed [mailed]

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to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees [on or before December 10 of each year].

Section 9.6 Nomination by Petition

- (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular or special election, may be by petition signed by no fewer than fifty certified member congregations, including at least one congregation from three of the regions of the Association. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.
- (b) For other Elective Positions. A nomination for any elective position, for a regular or special election, may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than [February 1] May 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. A petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees must designate the position number for which the person is being nominated.

Actions of Immediate Witness

The Assembly affirmed the following Actions of Immediate Witness by a vote of two-thirds or more.

I. Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the first Mayflower voyage, transporting Pilgrims from England to the North American Atlantic Coast;

WHEREAS, the Pilgrims' invasion of the Wampanoag people led to the enslavement of Indigenous peoples on the East Coast and the removal of and genocide against Indigenous peoples across the continent;

WHEREAS, many Unitarian Universalist congregations uncritically trace their origins to the Pilgrims' "Free Church" tradition – a mythos that sanctifies white supremacy and depends upon erasure of Indigenous peoples;¹

WHEREAS, white settler-colonialism is extractive, expansive,² and based in violent patriarchy – resulting in a preponderance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women³ and creating unsustainable conditions for all living beings;⁴

WHEREAS, the Plymouth Plantation (a for-profit corporation with stockholders in London) established the corporate pattern of using police to extract resources from Indigenous peoples,

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a pattern repeated at Standing Rock nation and other Indigenous nations that resist pipeline projects and other extractive industries;⁵

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, whose ancestors' lands were invaded by the Pilgrims in 1620, and who have inhabited and stewarded parts of present-day Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years, came under attack from the Trump administration in March of this year and were notified that their reservation lands were being terminated; and⁶

WHEREAS, the administration continues in this and other attacks on Indigenous peoples' lands, sacred sites, and sovereignty – even as a federal district judge has temporarily blocked the taking of the Mashpee Wampanoag's lands.⁷

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the delegates of the 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, call upon the Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations to:

- Continue to gather in solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Standing Rock nation, and all Indigenous peoples struggling to preserve their lands, waters, peoples, sacred sites, and sovereignty;
- Continue to push for release of Indigenous Water Protectors from prisons, end public policies that criminalize resistance to extractive colonialism, and adopt a vision of prison abolition;
- Work nationally, statewide, and locally on public policy that is decolonizing – such as establishing Indigenous Peoples Day, including Indigenous peoples' histories in public education curricula, and eliminating racist monuments, flags, and mascots;
- Work to stop and reverse ecological harm in genuine collaboration with and taking leadership from communities most consistently and harshly impacted by extractive exploitation of land, water, air, and all beings;
- Research, identify, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples historically and/or currently connected with the land occupied by congregations, and find ways to act in solidarity with or even partner with those Indigenous peoples; and
- Examine practices relative to Indigenous peoples, particularly the narratives regarding UU origins and US holidays including Thanksgiving.

¹ *Unitarian Universalist history often miscredits the “covenant communities” of the Pilgrims with bringing democracy and the “Free Church” to the North American continent – and with planting these values within UU tradition. This telling of UU history denies Indigenous histories, cultures, spiritual traditions, and rights.*

² *The colonial project initiated by the Pilgrims and perpetuated in our time demands more lands, waters, and resources, such that the conquest includes the whole continent, Hawaii, and other parts of the world.*

³ *This violently patriarchal model also leads to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and other forms of personal violence.*

⁴ *“All living beings” includes the descendants of white settler-colonialism, whose ancestors arrived on this land traumatized by generations of empire-building in their European homelands.*

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⁵ *The corporate and state retaliation against the Water Protector movement at Standing Rock nation, Cheyenne River nation, and elsewhere is the present-day manifestation of the Plymouth plantation model, with at least five Indigenous Water Protectors becoming political prisoners of the U.S. government – and numerous states adopting legislation to criminalize resistance to extractive industries.*

⁷ *The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) declared this unjust move a “devastating blow to not only the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, but to all of Indian Country,” and statements of solidarity came from many entities, including the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

⁸ *NCAI insists that we must remain “vigilant and stand united.”*

II. Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations, we proclaim loudly, Black Lives Matter!

WHEREAS, police departments and officers across the United States have taken the lives of Black people, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Rayshard Brooks and so many others;

WHEREAS, modern policing in the United States is a continuation of what began as slave patrols and have been used to control and harm Black people for generations;

WHEREAS, anti-racist protestors have been met by violence of an increasingly militarized police force;

WHEREAS, many of our faith communities have been complicit in creating the society and systems we currently live within; and

WHEREAS, our ancient and evolving universalist theologies call us to bring an end to all hells that exist and call for accountability and transformation, not punishment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as Unitarian Universalists we commit to shaping a world in which love and justice may thrive, where Black leadership, creativity, and resilience is celebrated while Black grief is honored and held with love. We will use our voices to amplify the demands of Black Lives Matter, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), Undocublack, and other organizations operated by and for Black people.

THEREFORE, we call upon the UUA to collaborate with organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to the work outlined in this AIW, for example, National Bail Out, Reclaim The Block, Black Lives of UU, in education, support, and resource development for congregations and to take action through staff commitments via the Organizing Strategy Team, Lifespan Faith Engagement, Congregational Life, and other groups.

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THEREFORE, we will create systemic change within our congregations by:

- Revising agreements and policies to create alternatives to policing (including developing plans for safety and accountability);
- Choosing not to involve police departments, and deactivating security systems that mobilize police response when triggered;
- Engaging in creative, transformative, justice processes;
- Pursuing abolition of policing systems within the congregations and institutions in which we have power;
- Moving congregational and institutional resources and endowments towards Black liberation organizing and long-term redistribution; and
- Rooting ourselves in theologies of liberation and abolition.

THEREFORE, we will support uprisings with spiritual and material resources, serving as places of respite during protests, funding movements through congregational budgets, and providing spiritual care for protestors and survivors of police and state terror.

THEREFORE, we will advocate in the wider world by:

- Following the example of institutions like the Minneapolis Public School Board in ending contracts with police, and directly intervening alongside communities experiencing policing and ICE raids;
- Joining in widespread calls for immediate defunding of police departments, ending immigration detention, and abolishing ICE; and
- Advocating for reinvestment in communities that have been victimized by policing and other forms of white supremacy.

THEREFORE, we commit to making our congregations and communities authentically multicultural, multiracial, anti-oppressive spaces that dismantle anti-Blackness; resisting a culture of perfectionism, and repairing our mistakes; and, given that building the Beloved Community is an ongoing and ever evolving process, we commit to staying in this work for the long haul.

Responsive Resolutions

The Assembly affirmed the following Actions of Immediate Witness by a vote of two-thirds or more.

I. Widening the Circle: Establishing Ongoing Intersectional Accountability Commission and Sunsetting the JTWTC

WHEREAS, The Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee has been at work in our faith since the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee Business Resolution was passed in 1997, and the General Assembly committed to be an Anti-Racist, Anti- Oppressive and Multicultural Faith; the General Assembly requested that the UUA Board of Trustees establish a committee to monitor and assess our transformation as an anti-racist, multi-cultural institution, and that the Board of Trustees report to the General Assembly specifically on the programs and resources dedicated to assisting our congregations; and

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WHEREAS, our faith has made progress and is still on the journey to living into what it truly means to be an Anti-Oppressive, Anti-Racist and Multicultural Faith: we have passed many resolutions such as the 2015 Responsive Resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement and the 2016 Reaffirmation of Commitment to Racial Justice, and the General Assembly recommitted to hold ourselves accountable to less witness and more action, supporting Black Lives Matter, and particularly examine at General Assembly 2017, 2018, and 2019, the year-to-year growth of numbers of people of color working as staff at the UUA and in our congregations; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the several resolutions, our Association and too many of our leaders have not sustained our collective focus on our own white supremacy culture, in that we have too often set aside or minimized that awareness, and have regularly relied on the brave work of a few people to remind the rest of us of our failure; and

WHEREAS, we have been shaken, stirred and rocked over the last three years and have reaffirmed our commitment and stayed on course towards fundamental change to dismantle white supremacy and all forms of domination and oppression within our faith; and

WHEREAS, we are seeing the impacts of oppression, racism, white supremacy, ableism, heteropatriarchy in all of its manifestations, in the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Black, brown, Indigenous, and poor communities, and on people with disabilities, in our lives by the police and military industrial complex, and in how religious professionals, leaders and congregants that are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, Disabled, and transgender/non-binary people are treated in our congregations and covenanted communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) was created to support our faith to identify the theological underpinnings for this work, do an external audit of privilege and power within the Association, and craft a truth and reconciliation process to help create a climate of honesty, accountability, and disclosure essential to our learning and multicultural growth as an institution, and the Commission was charged to report back to the board and General Assembly its learning, recommendations, and guidance for ongoing work; and

WHEREAS, the COIC has delivered recommendations on how to address systemic issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion for the member congregations and covenanted communities of the UUA, its administration and staff, the UUA Board and Committees, and the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the UUA Board is committed to being held accountable to using its power and resources to furthering the work of dismantling white supremacy culture within our institutions; and

WHEREAS, the UUA Board has accepted the COIC's report, and the UUA Board and Administration have allocated staff support and money in the upcoming budget to begin to move the recommendations of the Commission forward, and is committed to continued funding and support in future budgets.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the 2020 General Assembly offers profound appreciation for the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee and all of its members, past and present, for all the work to get our faith movement to this place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: we, the undersigned, ask the General Assembly to support the transition of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee to a newly established, ongoing accountability commission to hold the UUA and our communities accountable to our commitment to institutional change. By 2021 this commission will ensure that there is a process and structure that will continue past the current makeup of the UUA Board and administration and will also be able to influence and work with the UUA Board of Trustees, the National Advisory Committee and the President's Council, as they provide recommendations on other aspects of the UUA. A Design Committee made up of and working alongside the UUA Board and stakeholders/representatives from across our faith centering communities and UU identity organizations representing marginalized identities would craft a clear charge, specific outcomes, clear milestones and a clear specification of its powers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT: General Assembly 2020 endorses the recommendation of the UUA Board of Trustees to sunset the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee and transition to such an established accountability commission as recommended in the Commission on Institutional Change's report.

Submitted by members of the UUA Board of Trustees.

Endorsed by: UUA Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee (current and former members), UUA Commission on Institutional Change, UUA Commission on Social Witness, UUA Appointments Committee, UUA Commission on Appraisal, Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Transgender Religious professional UUs Together (TRUUsT), EqUUal Access, UU Women's Federation, Black Lives UU Organizing Collective, Association of UU Administrators Board, UU Ministers Association leadership, UU Class Conversations

II. Supporting and Investing In Youth and Young Adults in Unitarian Universalism

WHEREAS the UUA Commission on Institutional Change Report, "Widening the Circle of Concern," recognizes that:

1. The constant restructuring of youth (ages 14-18 and/or in high school or the equivalent) and young adult (ages 18-35) programming obstructs our institutional memory and hinders retention and spiritual growth of our youth and young adults;
2. Youth and young adults of color have unique struggles due to their intersecting marginalized identities in UU spaces and require additional support to convene with people who share their identities;
3. Youth and young adults have access to less capital than older age ranges and require more support to attend regional and national events like General Assembly;

WHEREAS many UU youth and young adult leaders are not valued, heard, or supported in our faith, as evidenced by the resignations of the 2020 GA Youth and YA@GA volunteer staff, and the lack of action taken after numerous responsive resolutions similar to this one, especially from 2008-2013;

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WHEREAS many youth and young adults - especially youth and young adults of color -, have been supported at the surface level, without regard for our vision and leadership in youth and young adult spaces;

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalist young adults are less likely to be connected to a specific congregation and to other UU young adults their age;

WHEREAS youth and young adults are not only the future of this faith, but our past and present, and Unitarian Universalism will benefit by supporting people raised and formed in this faith;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

1. Requests the Unitarian Universalist Association hire and retain Lifespan Faith Engagement (national) and Congregational Life (regional) staff - at least 1 FTE per region by GA 2023 - to support youth and young adults; specifically dedicated to supporting youth and young adults of color, emerging adults (ages 18-24), older young adults as they transition to adulthood, and unchurched young adults;
2. Requests the Unitarian Universalist Association include specific and separate line items in the budget for youth and young adult events;
3. Requests that the UUA Board of Trustees require and facilitate participation of youth and young adults on the accountability commission proposed in the Commission's report; .
4. Encourages member congregations to hire and pay staff to support youth and young adults, and to financially support youth and young adults, especially those with multiple, intersecting marginalized identities, and that new ministers be charged in their call to cultivate youth and young adult ministry;
5. Requests the UUA incentivize and resource member congregations to cultivate ministries for UUs aged 18-24, with a focus on unchurched emerging adults;
6. Invites congregations to incorporate participatory and collaborative experiences of spiritual deepening - such as circle worship -, into congregational life, recognizing younger Unitarian Universalists experience worship differently; and
7. Invites congregations to incorporate input from youth and young adults in congregational decision-making processes, including youth leadership on congregational and district/regional boards, recognizing that many younger Unitarian Universalists often are excluded from decisions that directly affect their community and faith development.

Submitted by GA Youth and YA@GA

Endorsed by: former 2020 GA Youth and YA@GA staff, Liberal Religious Educator (LREDA) Board of Trustees, DRUUMM Steering Committee

III. **The Pandemic: A Religious Response**

A response to the General Assembly report by President Susan Frederick-Gray. Our UUA President has expressed the Association's concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic is a major tragedy for all humanity. Thousands have died and are dying. The pandemic has exposed major problems in health care.

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THEREFORE, we urge all people to:

- Become advocates for health equity and safety,
- Liberate people from the oppression that causes unnecessary suffering and death;
- Work for adequate funding for national, state, and local public-health programs;
- Urge national leaders to provide adequate support for international agencies such as the World Health Organization;
- Advocate for a national, publicly funded, comprehensive program of universal medical care,
- Assure that all people can access adequate medical care;
- Advocate for an economic recovery program prioritizing help to the poor and marginalized, to create sustainable/and resilient communities, with justice for all;
- Support congregation-based programs to promote health and safety, reduce health disparities, and ensure access to quality health care for all.

Election Results

The following individuals were declared elected as their nominations were uncontested:

Co-Moderators: Charles Du Mond, Meg Riley (*note: this was a special election to complete the term ending in 2025*)

Board of Trustees: Kathy Burek, John Newhall, Barbara de Leeuw, Bill Young, Rebecca Throop (youth trustee)

General Assembly Planning Committee: Andrea Lerner

Nominating Committee: Ben Gabel, Yadene Hailu, Carrie Stewart, Zackrie Vinczen

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association, as corrected, was as follows: accredited and attending the 59th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1872 member delegates, 409 ministerial delegates, 133 religious educator delegates, three associate member delegates, 17 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count), for a total of 2417 delegates representing 636 congregations, forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, two Canadian provinces, and Mexico.

Total registration for the Assembly was 4925, including 60 youth, representing 767 UUA congregations.

Closing

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The Assembly was adjourned *sine die* by Co-Moderators Williams and Greve at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald,
Executive Vice President