



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

Virtual GA 2021

Draft Rules of Procedure

June 12, 2021

A UUA Board of Trustees Webinar



Webinar Hosts

- 🌐 Charles Du Mond, Co-Moderator
- 🌐 Greg Boyd, Trustee
- 🌐 Kathy Burek, Trustee, Financial Secretary
- 🌐 Stephanie Carey Maron, Executive Assistant to UUA Board of Trustees
- 🌐 Betty Clark, General Assembly and Conference Services



Agenda

- 🕒 Why Plain Language?
- 🕒 Goals of the Rules
- 🕒 Review Draft Rules



Highlights

- 🕯️ Adopt Rules, then Amend
 - 🕯️ We need rules to amend rules
- 🕯️ Logistics—Information Room
- 🕯️ Updated
 - 🕯️ Minutes for Discussion
 - 🕯️ Dates and Times



Goals of Draft Rules

- ⊕ Decisions are based on the will of the majority in accordance with UU values and principles. Delegates have the chance to express a range of opinions as part of the decision-making process.
- ⊕ Delegates know how they can participate in business discussions and voting at General Assembly in a respectful, transparent, and inclusive way.
- ⊕ Business discussions are predictable in order to be accessible, and they move smoothly make the best use of everyone's time.



2021 Draft Rules of Procedure



Adoption & Amendment of Rules

- ⌚ First order of business is adoption.
- ⌚ No debate—need rules to work from
- ⌚ Then, amendments allowed
 - ⌚ Amendments must be submitted in writing.
 - ⌚ Amendments require 2/3 majority to pass.



Minutes

Minutes from 2021 GA

- 🕒 Prepared by Recording Secretary
- 🕒 Reviewed by UUA Attorney
- 🕒 Approved by UUA Board



Final Agenda

- ⌚ Board of Trustees or Commission on Social Witness moves items on Final Agenda.
- ⌚ Items may be amended based on Mini-Assembly feedback.



Consent Agenda

- ⊕ Includes items the Moderator feels are not controversial
- ⊕ Delegates making the motion to remove must explain their request.
- ⊕ Items will be removed from the Consent Agenda if 99 delegates vote to do so.



Consent Agenda

- ⊕ Consent Agenda items, as a group, must receive a majority to be placed on the Final Agenda.
- ⊕ Consent Agenda needs 2/3 vote to pass.



Amendments: Mini-Assemblies

- Ⓢ Amendments must be presented in the Mini-Assembly for Business Items
- Ⓢ On Wednesday, June 23
3 PM ET / 2 PM CT / 1 PM MT
12 PM PT / 11 AM AT / 9 AM HT
- Ⓢ There are separate mini-assemblies for the Statement of Conscience (SOC) and Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW).



Amendments: Mini-Assemblies

- ⦿ A straw poll may be taken to discern the level of support for a particular amendment.
- ⦿ Delegates can present an amendment that was not approved in Mini-Assembly.



Amendments

- ⌚ Amendments are limited to the same bylaw section.
- ⌚ Amendments to amendments need Moderator approval.
- ⌚ Issues will be discussed for 8 minutes before amendments are allowed.
- ⌚ Moderator can make exceptions.
- ⌚ Proposed amendments must be emailed to the Moderator: moderator@uua.org



Conducting Business

- 🕒 300 Delegates representing 100 congregations must be present at each General Session.
- 🕒 Delegates wishing to speak live will start in the Information Room.
- 🕒 Delegates vote through the Participation Portal.



Conducting Business

- ⌚ Information on what proportion of votes in favor of the motion are needed for it to pass will be shown in advance.
- ⌚ Moderator may ask for a straw poll instead of a formal vote.



NEW: Information Room

- 🕒 All Delegates will start at the Information Room
- 🕒 Staffed by Board and UUA Staff
- 🕒 Ask for information about business items, what is being voted on, other questions about the process.
- 🕒 Be directed to the appropriate line.
- 🕒 Like the tellers at in-person microphones
- 🕒 Information Room staff will relay Information to Moderator to share with Assembly.



Order of Speakers

- ⦿ There will be 3 “Lines”
 - ⦿ Pro—to speak in favor
 - ⦿ Con—to express concerns
 - ⦿ Amendment/Procedure
 - ⦿ Offer an amendment.
 - ⦿ Make a procedural motion.



Order of Speakers

- ⦿ Moderator will Alternate Pro/Con Speakers.
- ⦿ Discussion will stop if no speaker at either a Pro or Con line.



Time Limits

- ⌚ Up to 12 Minutes of Pro and Con discussion on each item
- ⌚ Includes playing audio or videos
- ⌚ Includes amendments



Time Limits

- ⌚ Up to 12 Minutes of Pro and Con discussion on each item
- ⌚ Does NOT include:
 - ⌚ Explanations when item is introduced
 - ⌚ Speaking at the Procedure/Amendment line
- ⌚ Moderator may extend time briefly.
- ⌚ Time can be extended by 2/3 vote.



Ending Discussion

- 🕒 Delegates may vote to end discussion early.
 - 🕒 By moving to end discussion (through the Procedure/Amendment Line)
 - 🕒 First, we vote on whether to end discussion.
 - 🕒 If that motion passes—requires 2/3 vote
 - 🕒 Then, we vote on the item under discussion (an amendment or the main motion).



Budget Motions

- 🕒 Hearing on the Proposed UUA FY21–22 Budget—Friday, June 25 at
12 PM ET / 11 AM CT / 10 AM MT
9 AM PT / 8 AM AT / 6 AM HT
- 🕒 Budget Motions must be submitted in writing to the Moderator at moderator@uua.org on Friday, June 25 by
5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT
2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT



Responsive Resolutions

- ⊕ Response to something raised in a report from a UUA officer or committee to the General Assembly in writing, audio or video.
- ⊕ Responsive Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Moderator at moderator@uua.org on Friday, June 25 at
5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT
2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT
- ⊕ Scheduled for General Session V on Sunday, June 27



Proposing Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):

- ⊕ Proposed AIWs must:
 - ⊕ Meet standards of the Commission on Social Witness:
<https://www.uua.org/action/process/guide/aiw/criteria>
 - ⊕ Be submitted to socialwitness@uua.org on Wednesday, June 23 by
10 PM ET / 9 PM CT / 8 PM MT /
7 PM PT / 6 PM AT / 4 PM HT



Proposing Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):

- 🕒 CSW will announce accepted AIWs on Thursday, June 24 by
10 AM ET / 9 AM CT / 8 AM MT
7 AM PT / 6 AM AT / 4 AM HT
- 🕒 If there are more than 3, delegates will vote to prioritize them.
- 🕒 Poll closes on Friday, June 25 at
11:59 PM ET / 10:59 PM CT / 9:59 PM MT
8:59 PM PT / 7:59 PM AT / 5:49 PM HT



Social Witness Mini-Assemblies

Statement of Conscience

Friday, June 25 at

5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT

2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT

Actions of Immediate Witness

Saturday, June 26 at

5 PM ET / 4 PM CT / 3 PM MT

2 PM PT / 1 PM AT / 11 AM HT



Discussion of Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):

- ⌚ Top 3 Proposed AIWs Eligible for Final Agenda for Consideration
- ⌚ Delegates Vote To Add Each Item Separately
- ⌚ Proposed AIWs Cannot Be Amended



Discussion of Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):

- ⌚ Proposed AIW Must Receive 2/3 Vote to be Placed on Final Agenda
- ⌚ Up to 7 Minutes Discussion for Each AIW on Final Agenda
- ⌚ AIWs Must Receive 2/3 Vote for Affirmation



Precedence and End of Business

- ⊕ No Change from Past
- ⊕ GA is Free to Adopt Its Own Rules
- ⊕ Bylaws Take Precedence Over Rules
- ⊕ General Assembly Business ends at on
Sunday, June 27 at
6 PM ET / 5 PM CT / 4 PM MT
3 PM PT / 2 PM AT / 12 PM HT



Where to Find the Final Agenda and Proposed Rules

🕒 Final Agenda Contains

🕒 Text of all business items

🕒 Draft of Proposed Rules

<https://www.uua.org/files/2021-05/2021%20Agenda.pdf>



Final Questions?