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

 Rows: Board of Trustees or Commission on Social Witness moves items on Final Agenda.

 Rows: 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

긍 A straw poll may be taken to discern the level of support for a particular amendment.

긍 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

Delegate 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
Final Questions?