



Reimagining Business Together

General Assembly Business Orientation

UUA General Assembly – June 22-26, 2022

Multiplatform | Portland, OR

uua.org



Introductions

- Welcome from the panelists
- Please introduce yourselves in the chat
- Submit questions to Q&A (preferred) or in chat



General Assembly is the annual **business meeting** of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Delegates from member congregations **elect** leaders and **vote** on resolutions, bylaw changes, statements, and elections.

Rules for the business and voting are set by the UUA Bylaws, the UUA Board of Trustees, and the Rules of Procedure.



At GA 2022, we are changing business as usual



**Inclusive and
accessible for
online and onsite
delegates; focus
on issues, not
process**



Imagine...

- Plenty of time to discuss business in advance of GA with your congregation
- Plenty of time to share your discussions in advance of GA
- A mini-assembly at least 10 days in advance of voting on possible amendments
- Easy, accessible voting that happens over hours, not seconds
- Discussion and votes on issues, not debates about procedure
- An equitable approach to for both online and on-site delegates to participate



How business will work multiplatform

April

Board shares drafts of business items, asks for feedback & discussion

May

CSW invites proposed AIWs

May 25

Board publishes final agenda & rules

May/June

Delegates credentialed through online platform, propose amendments

June 11

Consider amendments at mini-assembly

June 17

Final text of agenda items & AIWs

During GA
(June 22-26)

Vote by ballot on rules of procedure
Vote by ballot on amendments
Vote by ballot on all business items

DISCUSSION ONLINE



How is a new way to business established?

- GA 2021 changed UUA Bylaws to allow Commission on Social Witness to determine when Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be submitted
- Board adopted new UUA Bylaw rules
 - Rule 4.18.5 Amendments to Business Items on the Final Agenda
 - Rule 4.18.6 Schedule and Ballot Voting on Agenda Items
 - Rule 4.16.2 Responsive Resolutions
- Revised Rules of Procedure are proposed by the Board and must be adopted by delegates the first day of GA
- During GA, discussion is led by Trustees on the Moderation Team (ModSquad)



Voting & Discussion

General Session will have time to discuss every business item, with voting by ballot the same day

- Equitable access to onsite and online voting through delegate platform (*vote on your device, or terminals available near General Session hall*)
- One ballot per day, ballots open for a few hours
- Pro/Con speaking similar for onsite & online delegates
- No confusing procedure (e.g. “call the previous question”), keeping time for group discussion
- Slows down voting process to be accessible, gives time for consideration and conversation
- Builds on past ballot process for elections and AIWs





Ballots

- Wednesday (General Session 1): Rules of Procedure
- Thursday (General Session 2): Any proposed amendments from the mini assembly
- Friday (General Session 3): Business Resolutions and Bylaw Amendment (With any approved amendments from Thursday, if applicable)
- Saturday (General Session 4): AIWs, Responsive Resolutions (if any), Budget Resolutions (if any)
- Ballot for elected positions (Trustees, GAPC, Nominating Committee, and Presidential Search Committee) available



Discussion before GA

Topic	Replies	Views	Activity
Business Resolution: General Assembly Planning Committee GA Business FULL TEXT OF RESOLUTION: The Commission on Institutional Change, in their report, "Widening the Circle of Concern," recommended that the Board of Trustees examine the bylaws of the Association with the purpose of stream... read more	2	46	6d
Business Resolution: Renewing UUA Bylaws for Theologically Grounded and Mission-Focused Governance GA Business FULL TEXT OF RESOLUTION: Against the backdrop of a looming ecological catastrophe a multiracial, multicultural democracy struggles to emerge and survive, in the face of ferocious resistance. Unitarian Universalism is ca... read more	2	43	6d
Welcome to the Discussion Announcements			

- New online forum to post feedback on proposed agenda items
- Open to all UUA congregation members
- Includes discussion of business resolutions on:
 - Rewriting UUA bylaws
 - Changing GA Planning Committee

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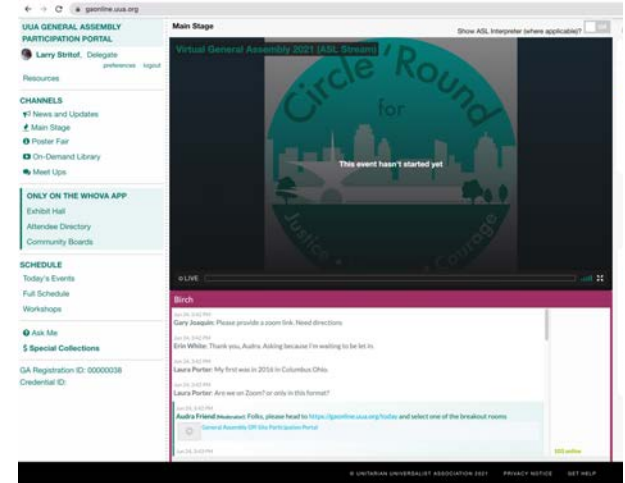
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Proposing amendments to business items

With number of days prior to the start of GA

- **May 25 (30 days)** – Final agenda published, delegate platform opens
- **June 8 (16 days)** - Proposed amendments submitted, Board reviews based on guidelines
- **June 11 (13 days)** – Online amendment mini-assemblies vote on which amendments to add to the ballot
- **June 15 (7 days)** – Update business agenda with final text of all business items & amendments





Amendments Guidelines

- To qualify for consideration (moderator reviews submissions), amendments must be:
 - Same topic
 - Same format/style
 - Avoid conflicting with other bylaws and statements
 - Consistent with bylaw intent (not adding new directions)
- Amendments which get 33% support at the mini-assembly will be voted on at GA
- Board can incorporate any amendment into final version



Actions of Immediate Witness

- May 1, 2022: Email AIW topic and description to Commission on Social Witness (CSW)
- May 7, 2022: CSW provides connections, collaborators
- May 15, 2022: Email draft of AIW to CSW; (feedback 5/23)
- June 1-8, 2022: CSW posts drafts; Authors build connections
- June 8, 2022: Submit revised AIW
- June 15, 2022: Final AIWs posted
- June 22-26, 2022: Votes to affirm AIWs during GA



Responsive Resolutions

Rule 4.16.2 Responsive Resolutions

Responsive resolutions are brief, advisory statements that express the sentiment of the delegates. They must be in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly, per Section 4.16. Responsive resolutions are not binding and do not set policy for the Association. They may not act as a substitute for other types of business items, such as business resolutions, budget motions, study/action issues, bylaw amendments, or actions of immediate witness. The Moderator will determine whether a proposed responsive resolution may be added to the final agenda under this rule.

Any delegate can submit a responsive resolution for affirmation during GA in a format set by the Board; they cannot be amended



Revised Rules of Procedure

Key Elements

- Clear and accessible format in plain language
- Discussion time with Pro/Con Lines will alternate between onsite and online delegates
- No Amendment/Procedure Line
 - Amendments are automatically on the daily ballot
 - Cannot vote to table, refer or end discussion (call the question)
- Information Desk will answer questions, address procedural concerns with the Moderation Team
- Changes for the Rules of Procedure can only be proposed at the pre-GA mini-assembly, require 4/5 majority to pass



Key Dates

- May 25 – Final agenda out (30 days beforehand)
- June 8, 2022 – Proposed amendments to business items are due to the Board
- June 9, 2022 – Moderators and ModSquad review submitted amendments
- June 11, 2022 – Business Mini-Assembly (available via delegate platform) - 4:00 pm ET
- June 15, 2022 – Board posts final text of business items with incorporated amendments