



## General Assembly Business Meeting Minutes

### Sixty-Third General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association June 20-23, 2024 All Virtual Event

*Note: all times are Eastern Time*

#### Introduction

- First all-virtual GA by choice
- Platforms
  - Whova app for regular participation, access to programs, worship, connection with other attendees and on-demand video library
  - Business conducted thru GA delegate platform
  - Access to General Sessions available through UUA website and YouTube
- Theme: Love Unites, Stories Ignite

#### Business Preparation for General Assembly

Online mini-assemblies on regular business items were held to discuss qualifying amendments to Business Agenda items on the final agenda which were submitted by delegates prior to the deadline posted in the final agenda. Following mini-assemblies, all delegates could vote on these amendments; amendments which received at least 50% support were required to be considered by the General Assembly, unless they were accepted by the item's original sponsor.

The business process timeline leading up to GA for regular business items was as follows:

- May 21 – final business agenda was published
- May 30 – deadline for delegates to submit amendments to items on the final agenda
- June 3 – mini-assembly on the Rules of Procedure
  - One amendment was proposed, received the required 50% of the vote, and was incorporated. The amendment allowed for the sponsor of any amendment to speak for an additional 90 seconds at the end of discussion, inclusive of the time limits, to respond to any comments made from the pro/con lines.
- June 5 – mini-assembly on the Bylaw Amendment to Section 7.13 Religious Education Credentialing and Business Resolution “Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values” and
  - Bylaw Amendment: One amendment was proposed and received the required 50% of the vote, and was incorporated. The amendment clarified that the RECC shall consist of “**no fewer than** seven members” (emphasis added).
  - Business Resolution: Two amendments were proposed; both received the required 50% of the vote, and were incorporated. The first amendment changed the title of the resolution and the other amendment provided direct support for UUA member congregations and communities engaged in this ministry in oppressive states and communities.
- June 18 – final versions of business agenda items, including amendments and Actions of Immediate Witness, were published.

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#### Convening

Co-Moderators Charles Du Mond and Rev. Meg Riley convened the General Assembly on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at approximately 1:00 p.m. Based on 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, the Rules of Procedure (as amended) for the conduct of the meeting [Vote Results: Adopt = 1606 (97.4%), Do not adopt = 43 (2.6%)].

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#### Notable Events

- Highlights
  - Cohort gatherings (morning/afternoon) helped attendees connect on a topic of their choice, hosted by GA sponsors and UUA staff
  - Preview of the upcoming UUA Climate Revival in September 2024
  - Update from UUA Bylaws Renewal Team
  - Installation of newly-elected leaders
  - Invitation to multi-platform GA 2025, onsite in Baltimore
- Ware Lecturer – Rabbi Julia Watts Belser, author of *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*, also spoke to attendees.
- Berry Street Lecture – The Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie, “Mystery Loves Company”, hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers’ Association
- Featured Guest Speakers
  - *gOD-Talk* Film Screening with Teddy Reeves
  - Lady Dane Figueroa Adidi and J Mase III: “One of Many Apocalypses: A Black Trans Retelling of the World”
  - Rashid Khalidi and Haroon Moghul: “A Conversation: The Gaza War and the Hundred Years War on Palestine”
  - Rev. Dr. Anastasia Kidd and Tigress Osborne: “Fat Liberation at the Intersection”
- Worship Leaders
  - Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism led the “Honoring Juneteenth: The Winding River of Liberation” worship service
  - The Rev. Jacqueline Brett and Soren Austenfeld led the Service of the Living Tradition, “What Now?”
  - The Rev. Molly Housh Gordon led the Sunday Morning Worship, “Weaving Our Lives”
  - The UUA Lifespan Faith Engagement Team led the Synergy Bridging Worship
- Support by GA Care Teams (Covenant, Chaplains, Systemic Justice, Accessibility & Inclusion, App Moderation)
- Hosted spaces: children’s programming, GA Youth, YA@GA

The Assembly received written or video reports from the following groups or officers:

- UUA President
- UUA Co-Moderators and Board of Trustees
- Co-Financial Advisors
- Commission on Appraisal
- Ministerial Fellowship Committee
- Religious Education Credentialing Committee
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

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- Unitarian Universalist Womens' Federation

The following awards were presented:

- The Board of Trustees gave the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to Jacqui C. Williams.
- The President's Annual Award for Volunteer Service was given to the Pink Havens Coalition.

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### **Business Resolution – Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values**

The Assembly adopted the proposed business resolution, as amended. [Vote Results: Adopt 1948 (91.8%), Do not adopt = 174 (8.2%)].

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### **Bylaw Amendment – Section 7.13 Religious Education Credentialing Committee**

The Assembly adopted the proposed business resolution, as amended. [Vote Results: Adopt 1973 (96.3%), Do not adopt = 75 (3.7%)].

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### **Actions of Immediate Witness**

The following Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) were added to the agenda, and affirmed by a vote of two-thirds or more.

#### **AIW 1 – World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change**

Vote Results: Affirm = 2312 (95.6%), Do not affirm = 107 (4.4%)

Whereas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that the year 2023 was the hottest year in recorded history for planet Earth. Major storms, wildfires, droughts, and other disasters were reported on all of the inhabited continents. More floods, more heat waves, and more tornadoes have developed during recent days. NOAA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention anticipate intense storms because of climate change, with increased food insecurity and an increase in illness caused by extreme temperatures. People have lost their homes because of climate change. The European Court of Human Rights ruled in April that the climate crisis is a human rights crisis.

Whereas, the impact of climate change has arrived during an era of social division and conflict. Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have contributed to the climate crisis and social injustice has made a bad situation worse.

Whereas, organized religion can be helpful before, during, and after community disasters. The impact of climate change has arrived during an era of social division and conflict. Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have contributed to the climate crisis and social injustice has made a bad situation worse.

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Unitarian Universalists can reduce alienation and suffering by working with marginalized groups to support community and labor organizing. Mutual aid and celebrations of liberation, resistance, sustainability, and accountability are needed in every season.

Whereas, the Unitarian Universalist Association identifies the purpose of our Association. “The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, and extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.” (Article II, UUA Bylaws. This AIW was proposed prior to passage of revised Article Two. References to the UUA Bylaws in this AIW are to the text of the UUA Bylaws then controlling.)

Whereas, the principles of our Association affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Unitarian Universalists respect the interdependent be of all existence of which we are a part. “Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. Unitarian Universalists pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity, and compassion.” (Article II, UUA Bylaws.)

Now, therefore, the General Assembly calls on the President of the United States to invoke the Stafford Act and the National Emergencies Act to recognize that a public health emergency now exists in the United States caused by climate change.

The impact of climate change brings Unitarian Universalists into a new era for religious, educational, and humanitarian programs. The movie *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code* helps to explain the situation. The General Assembly asks Unitarian Universalists to listen to the oppressed and to respond in appropriate ways. Advocates for racial justice, houseless people, undocumented immigrants, the very young and the very old, indigenous people, and other marginalized groups, can identify community needs and opportunities for cooperation. Cooling stations, emergency transportation, and wellness checks will be needed in some places. Religious leaders will be asked to visit detention centers, labor camps, prisons and other institutions, and camps for houseless people, to support health care and legal services, and to assist with mass evacuations when needed.

People who are houseless or living in inadequate housing are exposed to extreme weather. The General Assembly is grateful for the religious and secular organizations that help people who need housing assistance. Drinking water and energy assistance are often requested. The case of *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* is now before the United States Supreme Court. Regardless of the ruling, the General Assembly will stay in solidarity with people who need essential services. The General Assembly condemns the criminalization of the poor because of their poverty.

Climate change has created new problems for working people. All workers need adequate protection, compensation, and representation. The General Assembly supports the organization of democratic labor unions. At the end of each summer, workers should be honored. Congregations are asked to celebrate the Labor Day weekend and harvest holidays with appropriate activities.

Individuals have been denied healthcare and social services because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. The General Assembly supports amendments to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQI plus people. Federal money should be withheld from emergency services programs and other programs that permit unlawful discrimination.

*Primary Proposer: Amelia Hanley of One Island Family in Key West, FL*

*Additional Proposer: Rev. Robert Murphy of St. Petersburg, FL*

### **AIW 2 – Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19**

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Vote Results: Affirm = 1987 (86.1%), Do not affirm = 321 (13.9%)

Whereas, the emergency declaration for COVID-19 was terminated in 2023 without sufficient strategies in place to manage the persistent challenges of the virus, exacerbating its disproportionate impact on marginalized groups (i.e., disabled, uninsured and underinsured, incarcerated, BIPOC, LGBTQIA, older adults and youth, especially those of intersecting identities); and

Whereas, the current U.S. government's approach to COVID-19 management still jeopardizes the lives of higher-risk individuals and leaves many unknowingly susceptible to the potential long-term impacts of COVID-19 infections; and

Whereas, the aforementioned governmental approach is creating a continuously growing void in COVID-19 information and management, exemplified by the discontinuation of certain data collection processes and vital public health interventions (i.e., dependable testing, access to vaccines and treatment, prevention and harm reduction education) and the limited support for Long COVID research; and

Whereas, the current political climate increasingly fosters disregard and even hostility towards individuals still exercising COVID caution, resulting in growing social and legal pressures to remove masks from public life and forcing higher-risk individuals to choose between essential participation in public life or avoiding COVID-19 infections; and

Whereas, our faith proclamations of love and justice call us to confront the ongoing disregard for those most vulnerable in our world and meet it with liberating counter-cultural norms in our communities; and

Whereas, in the current political, economic, and environmental climate, the importance of inclusion and living into communal interdependence is of the utmost life-saving importance; and

Whereas, in the absence of appropriate governmental responses to the ongoing risks of COVID-19, grassroots organizations and nonprofit organizations are leading efforts for the continuation of protective measures in the U.S.;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2024 General Assembly calls for:

### *Congregational & Member Organization Action*

- To communally examine and process the impact of the pandemic on our communities, particularly any urgency we've experienced to relinquish COVID-19 protocols for the sake of returning to "normal." Unitarian Universalists hold a sacred tradition of questioning the status quo, and it is in that tradition that we must reflect on what "normal" we long to sustain. Given the lessons our communities learned by living into the 2021 Action of Immediate Witness "The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage", particularly how we learned to include those who were already experiencing isolation and exclusion from our communities in a 2019 version of "normal," we are called to reflect upon the barriers keeping us from holding onto the pandemic-induced community care practices which so effectively countered isolation and fostered radical inclusion.
- To build off of the aforementioned community reflections and recommit to making our spaces accessible for our congregational/member organization participants and staff who are at higher-risk, otherwise identify as COVID-cautious or were already experiencing isolation and exclusion from our communities in a 2019 version of "normal." While the wording of this AIW intentionally leaves flexibility for communities to adopt practices that make the most sense for the particular (likely complex and possibly competing) accessibility needs of their communities, at minimum, this AIW is asking communities for:

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- continuing the shift to mask-affirming culture
- openness to experimenting with different community-created gathering approaches to maximize access for all, centering the needs of higher-risk, disabled, and otherwise COVID-cautious people in the decision-making processes
- protocols to ensure that congregational/member group participants and staff can refrain from attending in-person events while they are experiencing symptoms of acute illness or have been recently ill
- moves toward meeting the ventilation and filtration standards consistent with the scientific standard laid out in ASHRAE 241 Control of Infectious Aerosols (as financially possible)

Congregations and member organizations are additionally asked to carefully reconsider their community's potential need for the adoption of additional disease transmission precautions, including, but not limited to, two-way masking practices and social distancing practices. If, in adopting any updated practices, a community chooses to integrate masking requirements, such requirements should include exceptions for people for whom mask-wearing is inaccessible and ensure the availability of free masks for individuals for whom masking is cost-prohibitive.

- To identify and work to form partnerships with local disability organizations working on COVID-19 justice, and community-organized "mask blocs". Partnerships might include offering event space, plate offerings for supplies, storage for their supplies, hosting their community stands, or supporting their efforts to respond to local community and legislative challenges to COVID caution.

#### *Unitarian Universalist Association Action*

- To create channels of support for congregations and member organizations in brainstorming, implementing, and troubleshooting the aforementioned community care and accessibility approaches while modeling such practices in UUA-sponsored events and meetings.
- To work to form active partnerships with organizations leading the way in COVID-19 policy advocacy so that Unitarian Universalists can get involved in this work with accountability to the most-directly-impacted populations. This advocacy may address, but not be limited to:
  - Contesting mask bans
  - Reinstating vital public health interventions (i.e., equitable access to vaccines and treatment and public health messaging reflective of the state of COVID science)
  - Improving hospital-based and community-based data collection processes
  - Clean air practices in healthcare and carceral settings
  - Funding for installation of air purifiers and improved ventilation in public spaces consistent with the scientific standard laid out in ASHRAE 241 Control of Infectious Aerosols
  - Funding for Long COVID research and care resources

*Primary Proposer: Meghan Garvey of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester*

*Additional Proposers: CB Beal, Rev. AJ van Tine, Rev. Sarah Caine, Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg, and Samara Powers*

### **AIW 3 – Solidarity with Palestinians**

Vote Results: Affirm = 1655 (73.5%), Do not affirm = 598 (26.5%)

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Our Unitarian Universalist faith draws on the moral imperative of radical love, and despite all odds, calls us to uphold a world where liberation is real and we all thrive.

Our faith community has long recognized the horrors of violent antisemitism against generations of Jewish people and we reaffirm our commitment to their safety. Our support for Jewish well-being was never meant to undermine the rights and lands of Palestinian people. We seek a world where our Palestinian and Jewish kin are safe. We believe that until Palestinians are free, none of us is free.

We decry all the violence of October 7. We further acknowledge that we cannot possibly contextualize all that led to this point but note that Israel's occupation and repression in Gaza has been decades long.

Unitarian and/or Universalist congregations and communities around the world have issued calls for peace, justice, and reparations in the Palestinian territories for decades. In 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced, and at least 280,000 were displaced in 1967 when additional Palestinian lands were violently occupied against international law. UUA General Assembly resolutions 15 in 1982 and 2002 called for ending the occupation of Palestinian lands and a 1982 UUA Board of Trustees resolution 8 declared that "criticism of the policies of the government of Israel should not be equated with or confused with anti-Semitism."

Today, we recognize that Zionism is increasingly intertwined with supremacy and nationalism which our faith has consistently rejected as unjust and discriminatory. In recent years, major human rights organizations have published reports documenting the apartheid policies and practices of the State of Israel. 51

A growing number of Unitarian Universalist communities and individuals are calling for ending unconditional military aid to the State of Israel and affirming solidarity with Palestinian safety, support, and self-determination, including Black Lives of UU, Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UU College of Social Justice, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, certain senior leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and thousands of UU religious professionals, lay leaders, and congregants. With the U.S. providing Israel the highest amount of military aid in the world, UUs in this country bear a responsibility to speak out against these policies.

Since October 7th, Israel has subjected Gaza to indiscriminate bombings with US-made weapons, resulting in civilian casualties, including journalists, aid workers delivering food and medical supplies, and healthcare workers. As of May 25, 2024, over 40,000 have been killed, including over 8,000 children, counting identified Palestinians and bodies under the rubble, 20,000 orphaned, and nearly 80,000 wounded, including thousands of amputees. Israel has blocked necessary aid delivery, depriving Palestinians of food, water, and medicines and causing famine with starvation deaths in the hundreds and 1.6 million in danger. The targeted and widespread destruction of medical, cultural, agricultural, educational, and religious sites constitutes ethnic cleansing. 46

At the same time, Israeli settlers are conducting violent attacks on Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank and the Israeli settlement movement is being hosted in U.S. synagogues to sell illegally confiscated land in the occupied territories.

The Israeli military's deliberate targeting of Gaza's hospitals and healthcare infrastructure, along with the killing of health workers and the withholding of food and water, is causing a humanitarian crisis that

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threatens the survival and well-being of the Palestinian population. The International Court of Justice has labeled these actions as plausible genocide and has urged countries that are parties to the Genocide Convention to halt any actions that could contribute to this grave situation.

The persecution of the Palestinians is also connected to a global commitment to profits over human lives and parallels greed-fueled conflicts in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia. While we call for the liberation of Palestinians, we also call for the liberation for all persecuted people across the globe. At the core of our Unitarian Universalist faith is the belief that life is sacred. Amidst global efforts to tamp down on speaking up for the lives of Palestinians, Congolese, and all oppressed people, we must find our courage to live and speak our beliefs into the broken, breaking world.

Solidarity with Palestinians faces escalating repression in the United States. Thousands of students are staging peaceful protests against the massacres, with universities enabling police forces to conduct hundreds of arrests. These demonstrations are also met with attacks on free speech, providing a pretext for both state and paramilitary violence. A bill declaring criticism of Israel to be antisemitic, based on a controversial definition 63, has been approved by the House, and the Senate is expected to affirm it as well.

Over 325 groups have signed the Apartheid-Free Communities solidarity initiative 71 of the American Friends Service Committee, including four major denominations: Alliance of Baptists, Disciples of Christ, the South Central Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and the United Church of Christ. Unitarian Universalist signatories include Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, The Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East. Now is the time for the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations to declare support for this movement.

Resolved: We, the delegates of the 2024 General Assembly, call on our UU congregations and communities to be in solidarity with Palestinians by engaging in the following actions based on the guidance of Palestinian and impacted partner organizations:

#### **1. Witnessing**

- Call for the liberation of Palestine and an end to the apartheid; declare our moral outrage and shared horror at Israel's massacre, mass incarceration, torture, destruction of the land, and poisoning soil for future generations, and decimation of systems of care that support life in the region.
- Call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, massive humanitarian aid, the release of all captives, and an end to genocide around the world.

#### **2. Educating:**

- Hold teach-ins about Palestine and Israel that include sacred spaces for spiritual processing.

#### **3. Organizing and Advocating:**

- Engage with Palestinian-led groups and coalitions supporting liberation.
- Sign, amplify, and carry out the Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge.



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- Support boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel and corporate enablers, and to end US military aid to Israel, until it ceases its policies and practices of apartheid, military occupation, settler colonialism, and genocide.
- Protect the freedom and safety of solidarity activists by supporting protests and opposing legislation and policies that restrict First Amendment rights.

*Primary Proposer: Rev. DL Helfer of Westminster Unitarian Church*

*Additional Proposers: Lena Gardner, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, and Rev. Abhi Janamanchi*

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### **Amendments to Article II**

The following amendments to the revised Article II Proposal were submitted by petition by February 1, 2024, with support of at least the required 15 congregations, and included on the final agenda:

- Reason and the Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning, by LeRae Neill of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach
- Equity Calls Us to Listen, Understand, Respect, Respond, proposed by Kara Stebbins of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Madison County
- Peace as a UU Value, proposed by Mac Goekler of the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware
- Equity: Every Person is Inherently Worthy, proposed by Bek Wheeler of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula

The following amendment was adopted by a vote of three-fourths or more:

*Deletions are in [brackets], additions are underlined.*

### **Equity: Every Person is Inherently Worthy**

Vote Results: Adopt amendment = 1805 (92.5%), Do not adopt amendment = 146 (17.5%)

Equity. We declare that every person [has the right to] is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with [inherent dignity and worthiness] dignity, love, and compassion.

*Proposed by Bek Wheeler*

The other proposed amendments did not receive the required three-fourths vote of support and were not adopted.

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### **Article II Proposal (as amended)**

The following proposal to replace the current Article II of the UUA Bylaws received the required 2/3 majority for final approval, as amended.

Vote Results: Adopt the proposed revision to Article II = 2025 (80.2%), Do not adopt the proposed revision to Article II = 499 (19.8%)

**Article II - Purposes and Covenant**

**Section C-2.1. Purposes**

The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

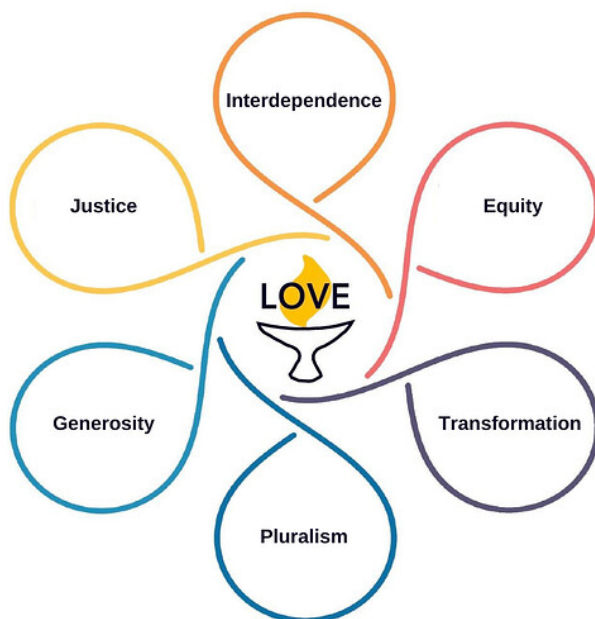
The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

**Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:



*Image Description: This image is of a chalice with an overlay of the word love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Dark Blue), Generosity (Teal), and Justice (Yellow).*

**Interdependence.** We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

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**Pluralism.** We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

**Justice.** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

**Transformation.** We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

**Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

**Equity.** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

#### **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

#### **Section C-2.4. Inclusion.**

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

#### **Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.**

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

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### **Responsive Resolutions and Budget Resolutions**

The following responsive resolution was affirmed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

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#### **UUA General Assembly Support for October 7 Hostages**

Vote Results: Affirm = 1705 (77.0%), Do not affirm = 508 (23.0%)

**Whereas**, UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt’s report beautifully reflected upon the profound horror and loss in the Middle East, which is amplifying growing antisemitism and anti-Arabism and islamophobia in the U.S. and beyond;

**Whereas**, real harm that has come to and continues to be suffered by those affected by the October 7 attack;

**Whereas**, 120 hostages are still missing, and only about 50 are currently believed to be alive;

**Whereas**, a call for recognition of only the harm on one side without regard for the other creates an environment of existential threat to Jewish Unitarian Universalists; and

**Therefore** be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (GA of the UUA) calls for the immediate release of all Hamas held hostages. Further, the GA of the UUA acknowledges the real suffering of Jews within our association and beyond. There can be no peace and no justice unless it is for all people.

*Sponsored by the Rev. Madelyn Campbell of the UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, and the Rev. Debra Haffner of the UU Fellowship in Huntington*

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#### **Election Results**

*The following individuals were declared elected because their nominations were uncontested, to take office at the close of General Assembly:*

##### **Board of Trustees**

- Emily Jaworski Koriath (elected to Trustee Position 6) – term to expire in 2027
- John Simmonds (re-elected to Trustee Position 3) – term to expire in 2027
- Rev. Sam Trumbore (re-elected to Trustee Position 8) – term to expire in 2027

##### **Commission on Appraisal**

- Rachel A. Feltner – to fulfill a partial term that expires in 2025

##### **Nominating Committee**

- cristy cardinal – a full term that expires in 2027
  - Andreas Rivera Young – a full term that expires in 2027
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#### **Credentials Report**

Below is the final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association for delegates accredited and attending the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Registration categories are indicated in parentheses:

2,044 member delegates (online, and online business-only)

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532 minister or minister emeritus/a delegates (online, and online business-only)

152 religious educator or religious educator emeritus/a delegates (online, and business-only)

2 associate member delegates (online)

Overall, 2,730 delegates received credentials, representing 734 congregations. These participated from fifty states and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Total registration for GA 2024 was 3,365 (2,374 online, 991 online business-only, and including 6 youth). These attendees represented 734 UUA congregations.

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### **Closing**

The Assembly was adjourned *sine die* by Co-Moderators Du Mond and Riley at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald,  
Executive Vice President