

MINUTES

**FORTY FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
HELD IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the St. Louis Convention Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Assembly adopted, by a vote of two thirds or more, Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

A list of the congregations entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year was read: Unitarian Universalists of the Big Bend, TX; Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Fond du Lac, WI; Unitarian Universalists of Fallston, Fallston, MD; Pathways Church, Southlake, TX; and Mosaic Unitarian Universalists, Orange City, FL.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the Executive Vice President, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Social Witness, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Beacon Press, the Unitarian Universalist Washington Center for Advocacy and Witness, the Annual Program Fund Committee, the Investment Committee, the Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, Starr King School for the Ministry, and Meadville/Lombard Theological School.

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.

Moderator Gini Courter and members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, including the Rev. Jose Ballester, Chair, President William Sinkford, and the Rev. Doug Gallager, presented the 2006 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to Jerry and Denise Davidoff.

Action on Bylaw Amendments

VOTE ON THE PHRASE "FULL TERM" FOR TRUSTEES

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that make clear the use of the phrase “full term” for terms of trustees of the Association.

Section 6.5. Term.

Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at or prior to which they are elected and, with the exception of the youth trustee at large, shall serve for terms of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The youth trustee at large shall serve for a term of two years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. Any partial term of more than two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms. However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has served as elected officer for a full term shall thereafter be elected a trustee without an interim of four years.

VOTE ON ESTABLISHING AN AUDIT COMMITTEE

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved Bylaw additions and changes that establish an Audit Committee as a standing committee of the Board of Trustees.

Section 7.1. Committees of the Board of Trustees.

The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

- (a) the Executive Committee;
- (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;
- (a) the Finance Committee;
- (b) the Investment Committee;
- (c) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and
- (d) the Audit Committee.

Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.

Members of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Religious Education Credentialing Committee, and board-appointed members of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year except as otherwise provided herein. Members of such committees shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 7.14. Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee shall consist of five members as follows:

- a. three persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are members of the Board or hold a salaried position with the Association;
- b. the Financial Advisor; and
- c. a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be appointed by the Board.

No member of the Audit Committee shall serve for more than four terms on the Audit Committee.

The duties of the Audit Committee are set forth in Article X.

VOTE ON THE UUA SOCIAL WITNESS PROCESS

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved Bylaw and Rule changes that extend the UUA Social Witness process and increase congregational participation.

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall prepare a Tentative Agenda for each regular General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XIV, Section 14.2;
- (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;
- (d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2, submitted by:
 - (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;
 - (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; or
 - (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified member congregations with no more than 10 members of any one member congregation counted as part of the 250;
- (f) proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions submitted by a district by official action at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of three Business Resolutions per district; and
- (g) Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12(a).

Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received by the Planning Committee by February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If the General Assembly opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received no later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that General Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines are established by Sections 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than June. The Planning Committee shall include on the Tentative Agenda all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of Business Resolutions in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions and may make such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a standard format. It may also submit one or more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two or more Business Resolutions.

Adoption of Business Resolutions by a General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. The Tentative Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee by March 1 if the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise, not less than 90 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.

The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process is to provide the member congregations of the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue. The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the congregations to take effective action. The process for adoption of UUA Statements of Conscience shall be as follows:

(a) First Cycle Year

- (1) Each member congregation, district, and sponsored organization (as designated by the Board of Trustees), may submit to the Commission on Social Witness by October 1 in the year preceding a General Assembly one proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue, such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be approved at a duly called meeting of its members or its governing board at which a quorum is present. This commences the process of a four year UUA Statement of Conscience cycle (“the Cycle”). A Cycle year ends at the close of General Assembly.
- (2) The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General Assembly not more than ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, each of which shall be based in whole or in part on the issues submitted to it as described in the previous subsection. The Commission on Social Witness shall verify with the proposing congregation, district, or sponsored organization that the proposed Study/Action Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to being included in the poll ballot. The ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be included for approval by the congregations on the Congregational Poll ballot, such ballot to be available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 of the same year. Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).
- (3) For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.
- (4) The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be ranked in the order of the votes received in the Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving the most votes (not to exceed five in number) shall be submitted to the General Assembly as follows:

- (i) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly, provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.
 - (ii) After one Congregational Study/Action Issue has been referred for study in accordance with (i) above, the Advocacy and Witness staff shall conduct a workshop to discuss processes for study and action on the selected issue. By November 1 following the General Assembly, the Advocacy and Witness staff shall have developed a resource guide pertaining to the Congregational Study/Action Issue selected by the General Assembly. The resource guide shall be made available and congregations notified of its availability.
- (5) If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in the previous year, the regular meeting of the General Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the implementation of such UUA Statement of Conscience.
- (6) If no proposed Congregation Study/Action Issues are on the Final Agenda in the first Cycle year, or if no Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by the General Assembly, then following the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in this subsection.
- (b) Second Cycle Year
- (1) Member congregations and the districts shall submit by not later than March 1 of the second Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
 - (2) During the meeting of the General Assembly in the second Cycle year the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.
- (c) Third Cycle Year
- (1) Member congregations and the districts shall submit by not later than March 1 of the third Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
 - (2) During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of Conscience.
 - (3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of

Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll, to be made available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be delivered to the congregations through the mail and by electronic mail.

Congregational Poll ballots, and the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).

- (4) The Commission on Social Witness shall then prepare a revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience taking into consideration comments received by the member congregations and districts and place this revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda.
 - (5) For a draft UUA Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning such draft UUA Statement of Conscience.
- (d) Fourth Cycle Year
- (1) If the draft UUA Statement of Conscience is placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly, then the next General Assembly must debate and vote on the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience. Adoption of the UUA Statement of Conscience shall require a two-thirds vote.
 - (2) If (i) the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly; or (ii) the General Assembly chooses, by a two-thirds vote, to refer the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience to the Commission on Social Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the Commission of Social Witness shall continue the study and revision of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience for one more year. The revised UUA Statement of Conscience may be placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly pursuant to subsections (c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5) above. If by the regular meeting of the General Assembly following the additional year the Commission on Social Witness has been unable to find support to generate an acceptable UUA Statement of Conscience, the Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the Final Agenda with a proposal to drop such Congregational Study/Action Issue.
 - (3) Following the regular meeting of the General Assembly in the fourth Cycle year, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in Section 4.12(a) above.
- (e) The Cycle may begin again, as set forth in Section 4.12(a), only after the General Assembly in the second Cycle year of a Congregational Study/Action Issue, and as provided in Sections 4.12(a)(6) and 4.12(d)(3).
- (f) The Study/Action Issue for Social Justice selected by the General Assembly in 2005 shall be considered for adoption as a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Bylaws and Rules of the Association in existence prior to the 2006 General Assembly.

This subsection (f) will automatically be deleted from the Bylaws following the 2008 General Assembly.

Section 4.14. Final Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The Planning Committee shall prepare a Final Agenda for each General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) all reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly and all proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules appearing on the Tentative Agenda that meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3;
- (b) those Business Resolutions, including alternative versions, on the Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3;
- (c) Business Resolutions, amendments to Rules or Bylaws or other items submitted by the Planning Committee, the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee, which did not originally appear on the Tentative Agenda, provided, however, that any such items appear on the Final Agenda accompanied by an explanation for the delayed submission;
- (d) additional proposed amendments to Bylaws submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) those proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues on the Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3, and if applicable pursuant to Sections 4.12(a); and
- (f) the UUA Statement of Conscience submitted by the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12 (c) and (d), if applicable.

The Planning Committee shall mail the Final Agenda to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee not less than 30 days before the General Assembly.

Rule G-4.12.2. Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare (and the Planning Committee shall include with the Tentative Agenda) a report summarizing the numbers and topics of the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the certified member congregations districts, and sponsored organizations as defined in Section 4.12(a)(1), and the criteria which it used in selecting proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues included in the Congregational Poll. Each proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue that appears on the Tentative Agenda shall be accompanied by previous General Resolutions, actions and statements on related issues, with dates (if applicable), and the names or number of congregations submitting issues included within such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue.

Rule 4.12.4 Mini-Assembly on UUA Statement of Conscience

During the regular General Assembly referred to in Section 4.12(d)(1), a mini-assembly shall be held during which the proposed amendments to the revised UUA Statement of Conscience shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize the

UUA Statement of Conscience, and the chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Poll.

The Planning Committee shall at the time of the mailing of the Tentative Agenda request each certified member congregation to report by February 1, on a form provided by the Planning Committee whether it recommends or does not recommend for action by the General Assembly the Business Resolutions, proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues in the first Cycle year, and draft UUA Statements of Conscience in the Fourth Cycle year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2) appearing on the Tentative Agenda, including the alternative versions of Business Resolutions (if any) submitted by the Planning Committee. The recommendation with respect to each proposed resolution or issue must be certified by the minister, clerk or president of that congregation as being within the procedures of that congregation. Only a Business Resolution which a majority of the congregations voting on the resolution recommends for the action shall be eligible to be included on the Final Agenda from the Congregational Poll. If there is more than one version of a Business Resolution on the Tentative Agenda, the subject of the resolution shall be considered a single item on the Tentative Agenda and the Congregational Poll. All versions shall be listed consecutively within that item. An aye vote by a congregation for one or more versions shall be counted an aye vote for inclusion of a resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda, the version that receives the highest number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business Resolutions eligible from the Congregational Poll, the Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the eight Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee may also include on the Final Agenda alternative versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to those selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle year, the Planning Committee also shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues receiving a majority of votes and the highest number of "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action, provided that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. If the number of proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues recommended for action in the Congregational Poll exceeds five and there is more than one such issue in fifth position as a result of a tie vote, all issues in fifth position shall be referred to the Final Agenda by the Commission on Social Witness. In the fourth Cycle year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2), the Planning Committee shall further include on the Final Agenda a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience, provided that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such draft UUA Statement of Conscience. A report of the vote by which each resolution on the Tentative Agenda was or was not "recommended for action" shall be included on the

Final Agenda. All Business Resolutions that are included on the Final Agenda shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-assembly.

UUA Statement of Conscience

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly adopted the following Statement of Conscience:

Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change

Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own. Life on this planet will be gravely affected unless we embrace new practices, ethics, and values to guide our lives on a warming planet. As Unitarian Universalists, how can our faith inform our actions to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change? We declare by this Statement of Conscience that we will not acquiesce to the ongoing degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren. We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

A Matter of Science

There is scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is changing due to global warming/climate change caused primarily by the human use of oil, coal, and natural gas. The burning of these fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps more heat from the sun. Global warming/climate change is accelerating as planetary temperatures reach record highs. The melting of polar ice and mountain glaciers may cause sea levels to rise by at least three feet, probably much more, and by eighty feet in coming centuries if the average temperature rises five degrees, warming that will be difficult to avoid. Half of the world's plant and animal species are at risk of extinction by 2100 as habitats are destroyed and ecosystems unravel. The huge Siberian permafrost peat bogs are apparently starting to melt, releasing methane and accelerating global warming/climate change. Antarctic glaciers are sliding into the ocean faster than previously expected, which may result in worldwide coastal flooding. Rapidly melting polar ice caps and glaciers provide visual evidence of global warming/climate change. Indirect effects due to melting polar and Greenland ice can upset the delicate salt balance in the North Atlantic Ocean, triggering a shift in the thermohaline current, which ironically may result in a local ice age in Northern Europe and parts of North America.

Increasing temperatures can devastate human communities and wildlife habitats. Warmer climates are extending toward the poles, dramatically altering ecosystems. Melting polar ice caps raise sea levels and upset the delicate balance of ocean salinity. This imbalance may lead to a shift in ocean circulation patterns, which could wreak havoc with regional climates. Recent increases in sea surface temperatures are linked with more intense hurricanes.

Global warming/climate change can cause both increases and decreases in local temperatures and precipitation. Until now the effects of global warming/climate change have been proportionate to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations. We can minimize the damage of climate change only if we act vigorously and soon--in the next decade according to top climate scientist. Since human-generated greenhouse gases are at a level not seen for at least 600,000 years, effects will persist and increase for a while even as we begin to control emissions. Climatic changes, combined with habitat destruction and pollution, are causing loss of species, forests, human settlements, glaciers, and coastal heritage sites. All living organisms depend on ecosystems that can be sustained only in relatively narrow temperature ranges.

The recent rapid global average temperature increase is indeed the result of human activity. While the climate is always changing, attribution studies using sophisticated supercomputer global climate models show that natural causes do not account for the recent rapid temperature increase and that human activity does. See the 2001 IPCC/SPM report, Figure 2.4.

A Matter of Faith and Justice

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called by our seventh Principle to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” We envision a world in which all people are assured a secure and meaningful life that is ecologically responsible and sustainable, in which every form of life has intrinsic value. In other words, Unitarian Universalists are called to defer to a balance between our individual needs and those of all other organisms. Entire cultures, nations, and life forms are at risk of extinction while basic human rights to adequate supplies of food, fresh water, and health as well as sustainable livelihoods for humans are being undermined. To live, we must both consume and dispose. Both our consumption and our disposal burden the interdependent web of existence. To sustain the interdependent web, we must burden it less while maintaining the essentials of our lives. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are painful omens of how racism, sexism, and poverty worsen the effects of global warming/climate change. Our world is calling us to gather in community and respond from our moral and spiritual wealth; together we can transform our individual and congregational lives into acts of moral witness, discarding our harmful habits for new behaviors and practices that will sustain life on Earth, ever vigilant against injustice.

A Matter of Policy

Global warming/climate change is not only an environmental phenomenon; it is a hotly contested policy issue. All countries, in particular developing countries, will be unable to protect their residents from sea level increases, frequent and intense droughts, heavy rains, and violent hurricanes and tornadoes. Species worldwide face extinction from these same events. It is a bitter irony and a grave injustice that economically developed countries that are most responsible for global warming/climate change possess the wealth, technology, and infrastructure to cope with its negative effects, while those who have the least will have the largest burdens to bear.

In 1992, the United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention calls for its signatories to stabilize their greenhouse gas emission rates. It also states that economically developed countries will take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and not use scientific uncertainty about some aspects of climate change as a cause for delaying an immediate response. While the scientific evidence is solid, there seems to be an effort by some to confuse the public. To date, the United States has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention, which sets milestones for reducing greenhouse gas emission rates. International cooperation is critical for addressing this global dilemma.

A Call to Action

Affirming that we are of this earth and that humankind has brought about global warming/climate change, we, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, pledge to ground our missions and ministries in reverence for this earth and responsibility to it as we undertake these personal practices, congregational actions, and advocacy goals.

Personal Practices

- Reduce our use of energy and our consumption of manufactured goods that become waste;
- Use alternative sources of energy to reduce global warming/climate change and to encourage the development of such sources;
- Choose the most energy-efficient transportation means that meet our needs and abilities (e.g., walk, bike, carpool, use mass transit and communication technologies, and limit travel);
- Determine our personal energy consumption and pledge to reduce our use of energy and carbon emissions by at least 20 percent by 2010 or sooner and into the future;
- Reuse, recycle, and reduce waste;
- Plant and preserve trees and native plants and choose sustainably harvested wood and wood products;
- Eat and serve energy-efficient food that is locally produced and low on the food chain;
- Use financial resources to encourage corporate social responsibility with reference to global warming/climate change;
- Model these practices by committing to a life of simplicity and Earth stewardship;
- Consume less, choose appliances that are rated energy-efficient (e.g., by the EPA Energy Star Program), and choose products and materials that are made from renewable resources and can be recycled at the end of their usefulness; and
- Commit to continue to learn about the science, impact, and mitigation of global warming/climate change and communicate this knowledge by teaching about and discussing the problems and dangers of, and actions to address, climate change.

Congregational Actions

- Celebrate reverence for the interdependent web of existence in all aspects of congregational life;

- Treat environmentally responsible practices as a spiritual discipline;
- Seek certification through the Green Sanctuary Program of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth;
- Educate ourselves, our children, and future generations on sustainable ways to live interdependently;
- Whenever possible, plan congregational facilities around proximity to public transportation and encourage congregants, as they are able, to travel by public transportation, walking, biking, and carpooling;
- Seek U. S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for all new congregational building projects and use LEED guidelines for renovation projects;
- Use congregational financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis;
- Practice environmentally responsible consumption and encourage voluntary simplicity among members;
- Build a broader base for environmentally mindful policies and practices through congregational alliances within Unitarian Universalism, through interfaith channels, and with secular entities; and
- Maximize the energy efficiency of congregational facilities by enrolling in the EPA's Energy Star for Congregations Program.

Denominational Affairs

We call upon our denominational leaders to provide:

- Leadership, by calling upon the major political parties to develop energy and climate change policies and to make them central topics of debate in state, congressional, and presidential elections;
- Education, by providing spiritual, educational, and technical resources for congregational and individual responses;
- Justice, by seeking opportunities for public witness for environmental justice, including joining interfaith and public events promoting a just response to climate change;
- Sustainable practices, by exploring the options for performing environmental audits of all UUA properties and for modeling appropriate management and purchasing practices;
- Sustainable investing, by exploring the potential for using the ownership rights of the denomination's financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis;
- Support, by assisting congregations in evaluating and addressing the risks and challenges they face as a result of global warming/climate change;
- Recognition of congregational action, by encouraging, honoring, and publicizing the work of UU congregations, including those that achieve Green Sanctuary accreditation; and
- Ministry, by recognizing and supporting the need for UU leaders to help others understand the urgency and severity of addressing global warming/climate change, the resulting potential for despair, and places to find hope for the future.

Advocacy Goals

- Full compliance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the understanding that because human activity is affecting global climate change, it follows that the greater our total population the greater the impact;
- Ratification of and compliance with the Kyoto Protocol;
- Funding for research and development of renewable energy resources and energy-efficient technologies that includes a shift of federal subsidies from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy technologies and improved energy efficiency;
- Funding of regional, national, and international programs to assist in mitigating the effects of global warming/climate change;
- Safe and responsible development of power sources with low greenhouse gas emissions;
- Policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase forestation and other forms of carbon dioxide sequestration;
- Funding for development of energy-efficient mass transit and encouragement of its widespread use;
- Global warming/climate change impact studies (including physical, social, and economic effects) to be conducted by local and regional governments, with the findings to be incorporated into local government processes;
- Urban and regional planning designed to reduce energy consumption;
- Access to family planning services in the United States and around the world;
- Significantly strengthened Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards for automobiles and light trucks;
- National greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 10 percent below current levels by 2015, 20 percent by 2020, and 60 percent by 2030;
- United States policy that takes a leadership role in future global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of global warming/climate change;
- Monitor, propose, and support legislation at the local and state level related to global warming/climate change and opportunities to reduce emissions; and
- Provide information on legislative advocacy opportunities to members of the congregation.

Given our human capacity to reflect and act upon our own lives as well as the condition of the world, we accept with humility and determination our responsibility to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change through innovation, cooperation, and self-discipline. We undertake this work for the preservation of life on Earth.

Study/Action Issue for Social Justice

The following Study/Action Issue for Social Justice on Peacemaking received a majority vote of the Assembly and was referred for study in accordance with Bylaw Section 4.12(c):

Issue: Should the Unitarian Universalist Association reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?

Actions of Immediate Witness

The Assembly adopted by a vote of two-thirds or more the following five Actions of Immediate Witness:

End Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

WHEREAS the Appalachian mountain range is an irreplaceable environmental treasure in the heart of the United States;

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining is devastating the environment, economies, people, and culture in Appalachia;

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that at least seven hundred miles of healthy streams have been buried by mountaintop removal coal mining;

WHEREAS the exploitation of Appalachia unjustly enriches other regions in the United States by providing cheap coal and thus electricity at the expense of Appalachia;

WHEREAS the availability of cheap coal thwarts energy conservation efforts because consumers, if required to pay the full and true costs of energy, would likely change their consumption habits; and

WHEREAS passage of H. R. 2719, the Clean Water Protection Act, would amend the Clean Water Act in a way that should reduce the use of mountaintop removal coal mining because coal companies would no longer be permitted to dump waste into nearby streams and valleys;

THEREFORE be it resolved that in order to protect the Appalachian environment and its people and to promote environmentally aware energy consumption patterns, the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon our member congregations, our affiliate organizations, and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

- Petition their congressional representatives to support passage of H. R. 2719, the Clean Water Protection Act;
- Petition relevant federal and state agencies, such as the Office of Surface Mining, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the individual state permitting agencies, to suspend or refuse to issue permits for mountaintop removal coal mines;
- Petition relevant agencies to restrict Appalachian mountaintop removal coal mining to daylight hours;

- Petition relevant national and state departments of health and human services to engage in dialogue regarding the effects of environmental degradation on the health of affected communities;
- Petition relevant agencies to levy and collect fines for mining and environmental violations;
- Strengthen legislation and funding for restoration of lands affected by mountaintop removal coal mining; and
- Raise awareness that the impact of the choice of coal mining techniques on local communities is a national and not a regional issue.

Endorse “The Declaration of Peace” Campaign

WHEREAS "The Declaration of Peace" (DOP), a nationwide interfaith, nonviolent campaign launched in May 2006, has been endorsed by over thirty religious and secular organizations;

WHEREAS the DOP, through a broad international, interfaith consultation process, is developing a concrete, comprehensive plan for a rapid end to the war in Iraq, calling on the United States government to establish a definite timetable and deadline for the complete withdrawal of all U. S. troops, including:

- Closing all U. S. bases in Iraq;
- Supporting an Iraqi-led peace process;
- Ending U. S. control of the political and economic life of Iraq, including Iraqi oil;
- Making reparations and supporting reconstruction of this war-torn country;
- Increasing support for veterans; and
- Prohibiting so-called “preemptive” war against other nations;

WHEREAS the DOP campaign includes:

- Systematic lobbying of Congress to bring the troops home, cut off funding for the war, and increase resources for veterans; and
- Nationally coordinated demonstrations (including Gandhian non-violent actions) if a concrete withdrawal plan is not in place by September 21, 2006, with a commitment to escalate protests until the United States withdraws from Iraq;

WHEREAS the U. S. war and occupation in Iraq has caused more than 2,500 U. S. deaths, more than 18,254 U. S. wounded, and more than 38,355 Iraqi deaths and has consumed billions of dollars desperately needed for peaceful purposes while intensifying hostilities in the Middle East;

WHEREAS a growing majority of Americans oppose the war, with hundreds of thousands actively engaged in democratic opposition to it;

WHEREAS a Zogby poll found that 70 percent of U. S. military in Iraq supported withdrawal within a year and 25 percent wanted an immediate withdrawal;

WHEREAS those who serve in the armed forces deserve the honor and respect embodied in generous active-duty, veteran, and family benefits, not the inadequate ones currently provided;

WHEREAS this war has created a context in which atrocities have been committed by small numbers of U. S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib, Haditha, and elsewhere, thereby degrading and further endangering the many honorable U. S. troops who deplore such actions;

WHEREAS the UUA has consistently joined peacemaking campaigns, which have promoted reconciliation over war, redistribution of wealth over the proliferation of weaponry, and non-violent resistance over acquiescence to militaristic government policies; and

WHEREAS the 2004 UUA General Assembly in Long Beach, California, called, in an Action of Immediate Witness, for U. S. withdrawal from Iraq by the end of 2004, and -- two years later -- withdrawal has not even begun.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the UUA General Assembly of 2006:

- Endorses "The Declaration of Peace" Campaign;
- Urges all Unitarian Universalist leaders at the international, national, district, and congregational levels to support individual and congregational participation in interfaith campaigns to end U.S. military involvement in Iraq; and
- Urges all Unitarian Universalists to promote increased support for U. S. military personnel and their families.

Pass the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist Principles call us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote justice, equity, and compassion and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

WHEREAS human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT or therapeutic cloning) show promise in finding cures for many physical and mental conditions, including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, burns, hemophilia, Parkinson's disease, spinal chord paralysis, and many others, that cause suffering and debilitation for millions of people;

WHEREAS embryonic stem cells, generated from donated embryos that are left over after infertility treatment, can become all cell types made by the human body and can proliferate indefinitely in culture;

WHEREAS SCNT is a technique in which the nucleus of a donated unfertilized egg is removed and replaced with the nucleus of a patient's cell, allowing the development of a genetically matched line of repair cells that can be accepted by a patient's body and the

development of disease-specific lines of cells to enable scientists to study the development of the disease and investigate potential treatments and means of prevention;

WHEREAS adult stem cells do not have similar capabilities because they cannot differentiate into all cell types and cannot reproduce indefinitely;

WHEREAS federally funded research is restricted to twenty-one hESC lines that are woefully inadequate and contaminated; and

WHEREAS the U. S. Senate has delayed action on S. 471, the Senate version of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, passed by the House last year (H.R. 810), which will significantly loosen restrictions on cell lines.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its support for immediate action in Congress to complete passage of the Stem Cell Enhancement Act as long as it remains substantially in accordance with H.R. 810.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon all member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

- Support removing restrictions for federal funding for hESC and SCNT research;
- Oppose restrictions to the advancement of stem cell science, as long as the rights of women donating eggs and couples donating embryos are appropriately protected and there is no intention of human reproductive cloning; and
- Urge our elected representatives in Congress to pass the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

Stand Up for the United Nations Human Rights Council

WHEREAS the first and sixth Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

WHEREAS the United Nations Charter reflects UU values in its commitment to promote peace, prosperity, and dignity for all people;

WHEREAS human rights and human dignity are vital for peace, security, development, and equality, while the lack of respect for human rights increases global poverty and insecurity;

WHEREAS the responsibility to protect global citizens, a guiding principle for world leaders, has not been implemented in problem areas such as Sudan, Burma, Uzbekistan, Chechnya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, and Tibet, where civilians suffer daily from armed conflict, crimes against humanity, and war crimes;

WHEREAS the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council is the result of a great effort made by many members of the international community and the Council is holding its inaugural session from June 19 to 30, 2006, coinciding with this General Assembly;

WHEREAS the United States has actively undermined the work of the Human Rights Council by voting in General Assembly against the motion to create the Council and then declining to run for a seat on the Council after the motion passed overwhelmingly 170-4; and

WHEREAS by not engaging in the work of the Council, the United States has the potential to weaken the Human Rights Council and prevent it from improving human rights for millions of people around the world;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirm their commitment to the United Nations at this vital time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates urge:

- Individual Unitarian Universalists to write to the U. S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to positively influence U. S. policy in vigorous support of the Human Rights Council;
- Congregations to inform themselves about UN operations and UN reform, and to recommit Unitarian Universalists at all levels to the principles of the UN's three pillars: human rights, peace, and development; and
- The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office and the UUA to encourage member groups of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists to write their elected officials in support of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Support Immigrant Justice

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to recognize that no one is “the stranger”;

WHEREAS we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large; and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, we Unitarian Universalists support the rights of our brothers and sisters who are recent immigrants to the United States of America;

WHEREAS in the spring of 2006, hundreds of thousands of people were moved to march for the rights of immigrants;

WHEREAS many among us are immigrants and integral members of and contributors to our communities and our congregations;

WHEREAS local, state, and federal elected officials have recently tried to criminalize and demonize immigrants to the United States;

WHEREAS politicians increasingly use immigrants as scapegoats for this country's problems and strive to distract the public from the underlying issues of global and economic justice;

WHEREAS our broken immigration system allows exploitation of undocumented workers; and

WHEREAS children of immigrants working in the fields are not receiving legal protection accorded other child laborers.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

- Supports just and comprehensive immigration reform;
- Supports the creation of an accessible and timely process to obtain residency and citizenship;
- Supports equitable treatment of all workers;
- Supports access to government and its democratic processes and to health care, education, and police protection for all;
- Supports the Children's Act for Responsible Employment (the CARE Act), H.R. 3482, which addresses the inequities and harsh conditions faced by children in agriculture in the United States;
- Opposes attempts at all levels of government to further criminalize or demonize immigrants and undocumented individuals and the people who give them humanitarian aid;
- Urges all Unitarian Universalist congregations and their members to continue providing services and fellowship to undocumented individuals even if legislation is passed that criminalizes these humanitarian acts;
- Opposes legislation by any governmental body that establishes any language as our "national language"; and
- Opposes the further militarization of United States borders.

Responsive Resolutions

Three resolutions in response to the reports of officers were passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

UUA/UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund

Be it resolved that the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations urge our member congregations and their individual members to work and advocate for the following:

- ongoing leadership and commitment by the UUA/UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund Panel, and;
- a just rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, including:
 - a transparent and fair contracting process demonstrating respect for labor and environmental laws;
 - swift development of contingency plans (national, state and local) to prepare for other catastrophic storms;
 - restoration and conservation of the Gulf region's coastal wetlands and full repair of the levees and other storm protections; and
 - undoing racism, ableism, ageism and other forms of oppression so clearly exposed during the devastation and exile.

This Responsive Resolution is submitted with loving prayer, intentional thoughts and concern for the current and displaced residents of the Gulf Coast. We are with them on their journey home.

UUA Health Care Plan

Resolved that,

WHEREAS too many ministers and staff who serve our congregations either have no health insurance or are underinsured;

WHEREAS the UUA Board of Trustees has approved a self-funded health insurance plan for our congregational staffs;

WHEREAS the availability of health insurance for those who serve us is a matter of inclusivity, accessibility and economic justice;

Therefore we, the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly, urge delegates to carry this message back to their local congregations and to advocate for their congregations' participation in the UUA Health Insurance Plan.

Congregational Programs on Racism and Classism

Resolved that the delegates to the 2006 Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism and to report on that program at next year's General Assembly.

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: accredited and attending the 44th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1817 member delegates, 397 ministerial delegates, 6 credentialed religious educators, 6 associate member delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 22 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count) for a total of 2252 delegates representing 623 congregations, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Mexico. Total registration for the Assembly was 4452, including 281 youth and 41 children.

Other Business

Delegates expressed their appreciation to Moderator Gini Courter, unanimously approving an informal resolution that said, "Be it resolved that the delegates of the 2006 General Assembly are grateful for the deeply respectful, caring, and intelligent guidance and leadership of our Moderator, Gini Courter. Her humor and skill have infinitely enriched our experience as delegates, and we applaud her spirit, skill and leadership."

Closing

The Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Montgomery
Recording Secretary