

MINUTES

FIFTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION HELD IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at 9:00 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

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

One new congregation was recognized as having entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville, Tennessee.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the UUA staff, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Social Witness, the Nominating Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.

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.

Members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee presented the 2013 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Melvin A. Hoover.

Action on Bylaw and Rule Amendments

A proposed change by Bylaw Section C-3.1 that would have changed the language of "autonomous" to "free" and "freely" to "mutually" was withdrawn after consultation with legal counsel.

FIRST-YEAR VOTE ON RECOGNIZING REGIONS AS ONE POSSIBLE UNIT OF GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSIBILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE MIDAMERICA REGION

The Assembly voted to give first-year approval to amendments to C-bylaws that recognize regions and acknowledge the MidAmerica Region. The effect of the vote is to place these bylaw amendment proposals on the final agenda of the 2014 General Assembly for final adoption which will require a two-thirds vote. The proposed text is as follows:

Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.

A member congregation, upon written notification to the Association, may withdraw from the Association at any time. The Board of Trustees may terminate the membership of any congregation that, pursuant to the provisions of Section C-3.5, has been placed in an “inactive congregation” category maintained by the Association, but shall do so only after consultation with:

- (a) the congregation in question, whenever possible; and
- (b) the President of the district **or region** in which the congregation is located or such other authorized official as the district **or region** designates in writing to the Association.

Section C-13.1. Districts and Regions.

The Association shall support areas of geographic responsibility known as districts or regions.

Section C-13.2. Establishment.

The establishment of districts **or regions** and the manner of determining which congregations are included in each district **or region** shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

Section C-13.4. Autonomy.

Each district **or region** shall be autonomous and shall be controlled by its own member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its member congregations.

VOTE ON RECOGNIZING THE MIDAMERICA DISTRICT

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Rules concerning Districts.

Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts.

- (a) **[The] There shall be districts [shall be nineteen in number and] named Ballou Channing, [Central Midwest,] Clara Barton, Florida, [Heartland,] Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, MidAmerica, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, [Prairie Star,] St. Lawrence, Southeast, and Southwestern.**

- (b) Transition Provision. The amendments to Rule G-13.2.1 deleting the Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie Star Districts, shall not become effective until those Districts dissolve. This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the first regular General Assembly occurring after all of those districts have dissolved.**

VOTE ON ELECTRONIC BALLOTS

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the bylaws and rules that allow for voting by secure, electronic ballots in UUA elections. The amended text is as follows:

Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.

- (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written or electronic ballot, except that if only one person has been validly nominated for each elective position at large the persons so nominated shall be declared elected and no ballots shall be required.
- (b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by accredited delegates from certified member congregations and certified associate member organizations to the regular General Assembly at which the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast more than one ballot.
- (c) Absentee Voting. Those entitled to cast ballots in an election may cast their ballots electronically or by mail. Absentee ballots shall be mailed at least forty-five days prior to the General Assembly at which the election is being held. An absentee ballot that is mailed must be received by the Secretary not less than seven calendar days before the General Assembly in order to be counted. An absentee ballot that is transmitted electronically must be received by the Secretary prior to the closing of voting at the GA location. The closing date and time shall be designated in the General Assembly meeting announcement.

Rule G-9.13.4. Absentee Ballots.

A mailed absentee ballot shall be counted only if accompanied by the signed and certified ballot stub of the credential card of the person casting the ballot. An electronic absentee ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.

Rule G-9.13.5. Balloting at General Assembly.

A person shall be qualified to cast a ballot at General Assembly only if that person presents to the Secretary of the Association or those employed by him or her **[at the polls]** a properly certified ballot stub plus a badge issued to that person and containing

the same name as the name on the ballot stub. An electronic ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.

VOTE CONCERNING FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEES

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the bylaws that establish membership in the Finance and Investment Committees. The amended text is as follows.

Section 7.7. Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees, and the Moderator without vote. The duties of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.

Section 7.8. Investment Committee.

The Investment Committee shall be the Investment Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund LLC. The duties of the Investment Committee are set forth in Article X.

VOTE ON FUNDS HELD FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

The Assembly voted to give first-year approval to amendments to C-bylaws that deal with funds held for the benefit of others. The effect of this vote is to place these amendments on the final agenda of the 2014 General Assembly for final adoption which will require a two-thirds vote. The proposed text is as follows.

Section C-10.6. Authority to Hold Funds [Held] for the Benefit of Others.

[With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the] The Association may hold for investment and distribution funds [belonging to or] given to the Association for the benefit of a member congregation, associate member organization, independent affiliate organization, or other Unitarian Universalist organization [organizations].

[Such funds may be invested in the General Investment Fund of the Association unless they are subject to specific restrictions which require some other form of investment.]

Section C-10.7. Responsibility for [Investments] Funds Held by the Association.

- (a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate responsibility for investing the funds [belonging to or] held by the Association.
- (b) President. The President shall invest the endowment funds held by the Association in the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund LLC.

[b] (c) Investment Committee. The Investment Committee shall [supervise] manage the [investments of] endowment funds held by the Association, subject to control by the Board of Trustees.

VOTE ON INCLUSION IN THE PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

By a vote of 80% or more, the Assembly voted to dispense with the study commission required to amend Article II bylaws, to give first-year approval to an amendment to delete the Non-Discrimination language in Article II, and to add language regarding inclusion in the Purposes of the Association. The effect of this vote is to place this amendment proposal on the Final Agenda of the 2014 General Assembly for final adoption, which will require a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE II. Principles and Purposes

[Section C-2.3. Non-discrimination.

The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member congregations and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.]

Section C-2.3. 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 do all we can] 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 and commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.

VOTE ON RULE G-2.3 REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved a new Rule regarding Non-Discrimination. The text is as follows.

Rule G-2.3. Non-discrimination.

The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member congregations and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.

VOTE ON SPECIAL ELECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws and Rules that clarify when special elections must be held to fill vacancies, modify the procedures for determining the winner of certain elections, and make changes concerning the terms and membership of standing committees. The amended text is as follows.

ARTICLE V. Committees of the Association

Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- (a) the Nominating Committee;
- (b) the Presidential Search Committee;
- (c) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- (d) the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) the Commission on Social Witness; and
- (f) the Board of Review.

The President shall be a member, without vote, of the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, and the Commission on Social Witness.

Section 5.2. Election and Appointment.

- (a) Elected members. Elected members of all standing committees of the Association shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.
- (b) Appointed members. The terms of any appointed members of standing committees of the Association shall begin at the close of the regular General Assembly in odd-numbered years. The Board of Trustees shall make each appointment no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Appointed members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 5.3. Qualifications of Committee Members.

To serve as a member of a standing committee of the Association, a person must be a member of a member congregation. No member of a standing committee of the Association, except a member serving ex officio, may, during the term of office, serve as a trustee or officer of, or hold any salaried position in, the Association.

Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.

An elected member of a standing committee of the Association may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the Board is present, if in the opinion of the Board the member is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office or otherwise for good cause. An appointed member of a standing committee of the Association may be removed at will by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

Section 5.5. Vacancies.

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected or appointed member of a standing committee of the Association shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Trustees. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected position shall serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy in an appointed position shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term, and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

An elected member of a standing committee of the Association in office for more than one-half of a full term shall be deemed to have completed a full term for the purposes of re-election.

Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members elected to terms of three years. One-third of the members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each year. After serving two terms in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least three years. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of the Association, as provided in Article IX.

Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.

The Presidential Search Committee shall consist of five elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. Each term shall be six years. The elected members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years prior to the expiration of a President's term. The terms of appointed members shall begin at the close of the regular General Assembly at which members were elected. After serving a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least six years. The Committee shall nominate candidates for the office of President as provided in Section 9.5.

Section 5.8. General Assembly Planning Committee.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. The terms of elected members shall be four years and the terms of appointed members shall be two years. One-half of the

elected members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. After serving two terms in office, an elected member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least four years. The Committee shall be responsible for arrangements for General Assembly and programs and meetings to be held in connection therewith. It may establish subcommittees of its members and may delegate part or all of its powers to them.

Section 5.9. Commission on Appraisal.

The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine members elected to terms of six years. One-third of the members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. After serving a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least six years. The Commission on Appraisal shall:

- (a) review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly;
- (b) study and suggest approaches to issues which may be of concern to the Association; and
- (c) report to a regular General Assembly at least once every four years on the program and accomplishments of the Association.

Section 5.10. Commission on Social Witness.

The Commission on Social Witness shall consist of three elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. Each term shall be four years. After serving two terms in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least four years. One member shall be appointed in each odd-numbered year. In addition to any election required to fill a vacancy, no fewer than one nor more than two members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year, as is required to insure a full complement of elected members.

The duties of the Commission are described in Article IV.

Section 5.11. Board of Review.

- (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members, as follows:
 - 1. Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in final ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for the preceding seven years;

2. One member who is a credentialed religious educator-master level; and
 3. Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom at the time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a member of one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or a member of the governing bodies of one or more such congregations.
- (b) Election and Term. Each term shall be eight years. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year there shall be elected one person who is neither a minister nor a credentialed religious educator. At each regular General Assembly held in an even-numbered year there shall be elected either a minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a Credentialed Religious Educator–Master Level as described in section (a)(2) above. After serving a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least eight years.
 - (c) Qualifications. No member of the Board of Review shall, during the term of office, be a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
 - (d) Removal. A member of the Board of Review may be removed without hearing by the vote of six other members, or as provided by Section 5.4.
 - (e) Duties. The duties of the Board of Review are described in Articles XI and XII.

ARTICLE VI. Board of Trustees

Section 6.8. Vacancies.

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining trustees. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election.

ARTICLE VII. Committees 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;
- (c) the Finance Committee;
- (d) the Investment Committee;

- (e) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and
- (f) the Audit Committee.

The President shall be a member, without vote, of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Investment Committee.

Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.

Except as otherwise provided, the terms of members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be two years beginning at the close of the regular General Assembly in odd-numbered years. Members shall be appointed no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

ARTICLE VIII. Officers of the Association

Section 8.7. Vacancies.

- (a) Elected Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected officer shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Trustees. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election.
- (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an appointed non-salaried officer may be filled by the Board of Trustees for the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 8.9. President.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association.

ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections

Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position to be filled, except Moderator and President, including positions to be filled by special election. With respect to Board positions, the Nominating Committee shall designate the position number for which each person is being nominated.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate individuals so that the membership of the Board of Trustees and each elected committee reflects the full diversity of the Association, especially in regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing amongst size of congregation, lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and

gender, among others. The Nominating Committee shall consult with groups and organizations, including those traditionally underrepresented in Unitarian Universalist leadership, to help inform the nominating process.

- (c) Only one person from any one member congregation shall be nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee or the Board of Trustees.
- (d) The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees, on or before December 10 of each year.

Section 9.5. Nomination of President and Moderator.

- (a) **President.** The Presidential Search Committee shall submit no fewer than two nominations for the office of President for an election at the end of a presidential term or for a special election. The report of the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced by February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election, except in the case of a special election, in which case the report of the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced by December 10 of the year before the election.
- (b) **Moderator.** The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more nominations for the office of Moderator for an election at the end of a moderator term or for a special election. The report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a moderator election, except in the case of a special election, in which case the report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by December 10 of the year before the election.

Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.

- (a) **For Moderator and President.** A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular or special election, may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.
- (b) **For Other Elective Positions.** A nomination for any other elective position, for a regular or special election, may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten

signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. A petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees must designate the position number for which the person is being nominated.

Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

- (a) For the position of President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected; provided, however, that in construing the foregoing with respect to Trustee positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective position. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc.. choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.
- (b) For Other Elective Positions. If there is one elective position to be filled, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected. If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of votes are elected.

Section 9.15. Special Elections

If a vacancy occurs more than 630 days before the expiration of the term of an elected officer, an elected member of a standing committee of the Association, or a trustee, a special election shall be held to fill the balance of the unexpired term. The special election shall be held at the next regular General Assembly that begins at least 270 days after the date of the vacancy.

RULE IX. Nominations and Elections

Rule G-9.4.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

- (a) Any person who applies to the Nominating Committee for nomination for the position of Financial Advisor or trustee shall submit by the application deadline a one-page statement of qualifications.
- (b) The report of the Nominating Committee required by Section 9.4(d) may be mailed to certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and

trustees either electronically or in hard copy. The report shall promptly be posted on the Association's website. The report shall include the statement of qualifications submitted by each nominee for Financial Advisor or trustee.

Rule G-9.10.1. Tie Vote-Elected Committee Position.

If a tie vote occurs in filling an elected committee position when only one person is to be elected, or occurs in filling a slate when the slate cannot be completed without resolving the tie, then as soon as possible before the final adjournment of the General Assembly involved, additional ballots shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that initially the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall contain only the names of the candidates who are tied. These ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to resolve it.

Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.

If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to resolve the tie shall be presided over by the Secretary of the Association who in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie shall have the rights and duties of the Moderator.

Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee.

If, in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee in any particular counting of the preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote amongst candidates having the least number of votes, then each such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting, the ballots accumulated for said candidate shall be redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the highest effective preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast. However, if in this process such elimination leaves only a single candidate who in that counting still does not have a majority of the counted votes, or if only two candidates remain in the contest and they are tied, then there shall be as many run-off election procedures, conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.10.1, as are necessary to result in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee by at least a majority of the votes cast.

Rule G-9.13.10. Election Campaign Practices Committee.

An Election Campaign Practices Committee is hereby established and shall consist of three persons to be appointed by the Board of Trustees for a term of two years each, and the Secretary, ex-officio, without vote. The Board shall designate one of the appointed members to chair the Committee. The appointed members' terms shall begin at the close of General Assembly in odd-numbered years. The Board may appoint an individual to fill a vacancy in membership of the Committee; persons appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the balance of the vacating member's term. Persons appointed to the Committee shall remain neutral in elections held while they are serving and shall not engage in

electioneering. Persons who seek nomination pursuant to Bylaw Sections 9.4, 9.5, or 9.6 are ineligible to serve on the Committee once they begin seeking nomination, and shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee effective upon seeking nomination if they are then serving.

Actions of Immediate Witness

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

Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human person, and in the use of the democratic process in society at large, and because approval of the 2011 AIW opposing *Citizens United* paved the way for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to take the spiritual lead in the passage of a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not free speech;

WHEREAS, a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings have established corporations as persons, equated money with speech, and eliminated limits on amounts that corporations can contribute to political campaigns and political advertising;

WHEREAS, these court-created doctrines have flooded the political landscape with unprecedented amounts of money from corporations and other interests, corrupting our democratic processes and putting the entire democracy at risk;

WHEREAS, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides for amendments to the Constitution, a process that has occurred 27 times, including seven Constitutional amendments that have overturned U.S. Supreme Court decisions;

WHEREAS, there are pending proposals in Congress and states that need action NOW to achieve passage of an amendment;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, UUA Board of Trustees, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and various congregations have already endorsed a Constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Constitution is needed to overturn *Citizens United* and eliminate both corporate personhood and money as speech;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly instructs the UUA to make its endorsement formal and public, supporting the efforts to amend the Constitution; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly further requests member congregations to pass resolutions that support and endorse a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not speech; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly encourages Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries nationwide (www.uustatenetworks.org) and other affiliated Unitarian Universalist organizations to join this important cause.

Working together with other groups and other faith traditions, we can make a significant impact to further the progress of a constitutional amendment to preserve the constitutional rights that our founding fathers intended solely for human persons, restore the effective voice of the people, and save our democracy.

Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry

BECAUSE the Sources of Unitarian Universalism counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science;

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant, in their Seventh Principle, to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and member congregations have demonstrated their commitment to this Principle in various ways, including by Green Sanctuary certification;

BECAUSE the 2006 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Statement of Conscience calls on Unitarian Universalist congregations to “[u]se congregational financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis;” and

BECAUSE the “UUA Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines” (2008) state that investments in companies engaged in negative global impact activities are to be avoided;

WHEREAS, we understand our lives are tied up in the consumption of energy;

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry currently controls fossil fuel reserves that, if burned, will produce more than five times the amount of greenhouse gas emissions required to raise global temperatures beyond 2° C, the level that leaders of 167 countries, including the United States, have agreed represents a threshold beyond which civilization cannot survive without enormous suffering;

WHEREAS, the global and growing movement 350.org is calling upon universities, pension funds, public entities, and religious institutions to divest their investments in 200 fossil fuel companies;

WHEREAS, further information and discussion regarding the divestment movement in UUA congregations is available at divestfossilfuels.wordpress.com or by email at divestment@uumilwaukee.org; and

WHEREAS, given the reality of climate change, passively profiting from business as usual in carbon-intensive fossil fuel companies is an abdication of our responsibility and thus morally wrong;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon delegates to begin a denomination-wide conversation within their congregations about divesting from fossil fuels or exercising shareholder influence. Congregations might discuss the following:

1. Stopping any new direct investments in fossil fuel companies, as listed in Carbon Tracker reports;
2. Divesting of all direct securities holdings in fossil fuel companies within the next five years;
3. Investing in diversified, socially responsible, and climate-friendly securities, and securities in the renewable energy and efficiency sector;
4. Investing in making their own facilities more energy-efficient, make widespread use of renewable energy, adopt conservation and efficiency measures;
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of shareholder advocacy; and
6. Retaining the option of owning the minimum number of shares necessary to be an activist shareholder. These shares would be considered “influence payments” and not investments.

Condemn the Racist Mistreatment of Young People of Color by Police

WHEREAS, programs such as the “War on Drugs” and practices such as “Stop and Frisk” are actively used by police to harass and oppress communities of color;

WHEREAS, Michelle Alexander, at the 2012 UUA General Assembly said, “We use our criminal justice system to label people of color ‘criminals’ and then engage in all the practices we supposedly left behind. . . . As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow. We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it;”

WHEREAS, this racist harassment has led to a growing number of African-American and Hispanic youth who have been mistreated and incarcerated because of police action;

WHEREAS, thousands of people have participated in mass multi-racial and multi-ethnic demonstrations seeking the ending of this racist mistreatment and violence by police;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Principles provide a clear mandate to protest such treatment:

- Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm the goal of a just community, representing unity in our multi-racial world;
- Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and

WHEREAS, the “Stop and Frisk” practice mainly targets young people of color and treats them in a racist manner that negates their inherent worth and dignity and leads to mass incarceration at tremendous social cost:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms to uphold our Principles and condemn the racist practices displayed in what Michelle Alexander describes in her book as “the New Jim Crow” and calls upon member congregations to:

- Condemn the pattern of mistreatment through practices such as “Stop and Frisk,” which mainly targets young people of color in our society, which negates their inherent worth and dignity, and continues the mass practice of institutional racism in our society.

The General Assembly also calls upon member congregations to:

- Petition local, state, and federal representatives to demand an end to institutional racism in the form of practices such as “Stop and Frisk;” and
- Actively demonstrate alongside others who are fighting to change the laws that allow police harassment, which results in violence against communities of color.

UUA Statement of Conscience

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

IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE

A belief in “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” is core to Unitarian Universalism: every person, no exceptions. As religious people, our Principles call us to acknowledge the immigrant experience and to affirm and promote the flourishing of the human family.

Our Sources “challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Hebrew scripture teaches love for the foreigner because “you were foreigners in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34). Christian scripture reports that Jesus and his disciples were itinerants. When asked “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, a foreigner who treated a badly beaten man as the foreigner would have wished to be treated (Luke 10:25-37). The Qur’an teaches doing “good to . . . those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet” (4:36). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts

that “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country” (article 13.2).

Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources call us to recognize the opportunities and challenges of human migration—caring for ourselves and our families, interacting with strangers, valuing diversity, and dealing with immigration systems.

Historical Background

Before recorded history, some people migrated out of Africa and later across the world. People left their places of birth to feed themselves, protect themselves from hostile environments, or better their lives. Some people migrated voluntarily, while others were forced to migrate due to enslavement, war, famine, marriage, or fear of persecution. Whatever the circumstances, the human family is composed almost entirely of immigrants or descendants of immigrants.

Most of the land mass on earth is now divided into nations with boundaries. Although we recognize that national boundaries are often arbitrary and disregard historical tribal boundaries and wildlife migratory patterns, we acknowledge that these national boundaries exist and that nations will protect their borders. Nations have assumed the right and obligation to protect the security and well-being of their citizens by enacting and enforcing immigration laws. Our challenge as religious people is to distinguish the moral from the immoral, supporting the former and opposing the latter. Moral immigration laws that are just and humane contribute to the public good, define the parameters of legal immigration, and restrict harmful influences such as criminal intent, epidemics, and contraband. Unfortunately, not all immigration laws are moral; some use race, class, religion, ethnicity, ability, or sexual orientation to dictate who belongs and who does not.

Underlying Factors Contributing to Immigration and Lack of Documentation

Today people leave their places of birth and migrate for the same reasons people always have—to be safe, to meet their needs for food and shelter, and to better their lives. Thus, violence, environmental change, and economic conditions often motivate migration. Acts of violence that drive people to migrate include armed conflicts, violence against women, violence related to sexual orientation and gender expression, ethnic cleansing, political persecution, and genocide. Environmental conditions that lead to migration include climate change, droughts, floods, radiation, and pollution.

Economic factors are currently the primary driving force behind immigration worldwide. Economic factors that cause people to migrate include the inability to meet needs for sufficient food and adequate shelter and the desire to better their lives. Contributors to these economic conditions include population growth, environmental degradation, globalization, and policies that address land ownership, tariffs, trade, and working conditions, many of which are continuing legacies of imperialism and colonialism.

A mechanism for regulating immigration is the issuance of visas, which are legal documents giving permission to enter and stay in a nation for a period of time. When the supply of visas is

far below the demand, then pressure to enter a country illegally or overstay a visa increases. A similar pressure occurs when the length of time between applying for a permanent visa and its issuance is a matter of years. When people cannot obtain or renew visas but choose to enter or remain in a country anyway, they become undocumented immigrants.

Visas that allow multiple border crossings encourage people to visit their families knowing that they can return and work. When crossing a border is difficult or hazardous, the likelihood of returning to one's family decreases and the desire to send for one's family increases. The families of undocumented immigrants wanting to reunite with their loved ones also have no means of entering legally. A broken immigration system opens the way for illegality, human trafficking, and exploitation.

Consequences

Who migrates, how they migrate, where they migrate to, and when they migrate are central to immigration policies worldwide. While immigrants find jobs, build community, fall in love, have children, and in other ways enrich a country with new ways of thinking and being, some people declare them unwelcome and label them—not just their status—illegal.

Lack of documentation and legal status can lead to exploitation. Work visas often require having an employer-sponsor, which can limit a person's freedom to change employment. Some employers are unable to find workers willing to do certain jobs under the work conditions and at the wages they offer. Other employers are stymied by onerous requirements to prove that they need people with certain abilities. When the number of work visas is fewer than the number of workers demanded by the economy, employers will fill the need regardless of workers' documentation.

Documented and undocumented immigrants alike are often denied the civil rights protections of citizens, paid less than citizens, labor in unsafe and unhealthy conditions, and/or are forced to work and live without pay under the threat of violence. In the United States, increased border security has resulted in undocumented immigrants crossing in more dangerous and remote areas where basic human needs such as drinking water do not exist.

Increased enforcement of immigration laws and the proliferation of for-profit detention centers have led to egregious human rights violations with little accountability or transparency. For example, immigrants in the U.S. detention system are not afforded the same due process rights as U.S. citizens, leading to unnecessarily lengthy detentions, and thus greater profits for the prison industry. These centers are poorly regulated and often overcrowded. Essential needs, including medical attention, are often denied, while more cost-effective and humane measures are ignored. Immigration enforcement consumes increasingly more of the federal government's resources.

Many undocumented immigrants and their families live in constant fear of deportation. This fear affects their use of educational opportunities and health care services, and their willingness to interact with local police officers. Enlisting local law enforcement agencies in immigration enforcement violates accepted practices of community policing and erodes trust between police and the communities they serve, sometimes resulting in racial profiling of those who appear to be

foreign. Deportation results in destroyed dreams and broken families—partners separated and children taken away from their caregivers or forced to return to a place they do not know. The perceived and constructed threat of those who are different has led some individuals and nations to meet immigrants with fear. Fear has become a social and political force that incorrectly labels people as “illegals,” “criminals,” and “terrorists.”

Therefore

Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) Principles and Sources compel us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely. At a minimum, a moral immigration policy would include the following elements:

- A path to legal permanent residency and citizenship
- Work visas that
 - Require the same worker protections applicable to citizens, including fair wages, safe and healthful environments, and receipt of benefits
 - Do not depend on a single employer
 - Allow multiple entries
 - Permit entry into the path for legal permanent residency and citizenship
 - Provide parity between the number of visas and the work available in the receiving nation
- Timely processing of applications for visas and timely deportation decisions
- Access to the same medical care and education available to citizens
- Evaluation of human and environmental costs and benefits of proposed barriers to immigration or other changes in immigration policy
- Due process under the law, including legal representation, rights of appeal, and the right to initiate suits
- Alternatives to detention for those not considered a threat to society and humane treatment for those being detained
- Preservation of family unity, including same-sex and transgender couples and families
- Provision of asylum for refugees and others living in fear of violence or retribution

- Collaboration with source countries to address underlying issues that contribute to immigration, including trade policies.

Calls to Action

Given the consequences of immoral and unjust immigration policies, we pledge to ground our missions and ministries in UU Principles and Sources as we undertake individual, congregational, and denominational actions, such as:

As individuals, we can:

- Educate ourselves and others about human migration, immigration policies, human rights abuses that result from immigration policies, and the impact of trade and farm policies on human migration
- Learn a language used by a large number of immigrants in our communities
- Advocate for moral immigration policies
- Tour detention facilities and inquire about treatment of detainees
- Volunteer for local organizations providing aid and advocacy for immigrants
- Take direct action, such as intervening to preserve the lives of immigrants, helping them get needed medical and legal aid, refusing to report undocumented people, or reporting abuses of immigrants
- Advocate enforcement of laws that prevent employers from abusing undocumented workers
- Listen to those who have differing ideas about immigration and creatively develop approaches that take those concerns and our concerns into account
- Record stories of recent immigrants and of our own immigration histories
- Learn how to identify and report human trafficking, including labor trafficking, in our communities.

As congregations, we can:

- Cooperate with other UU congregations, other faiths, and secular groups that are focusing on immigration issues for the purposes of education and action
- Offer lifespan education, youth and young adult programming, and worship services that explore immigration issues

- Create a covenant group that focuses on immigration issues
- Adopt service projects that address issues of immigration and immigrant rights
- Participate in efforts that support the rights and dignity of immigrants
- Explore and implement ways to transform concern into action, including the possibility of providing sanctuary for undocumented immigrants at special risk
- Support and participate in advocacy efforts to change immigration laws that are not moral, including using state legislative ministries where they are available
- Coordinate experiential trips to gain first-hand understanding of border, migrant, and refugee issues; support groups that facilitate such trips, including No More Deaths and the UU Service Committee (UUSC)
- Organize visits to local detention centers, inquire about the care of detainees, and support detainees and their families
- Meet with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and local law enforcement to oppose detention in privately-run facilities and advocate for alternatives to detention for low-risk detainees
- Fund college scholarships that are available to undocumented young people
- Offer financial assistance to undocumented immigrants seeking to obtain legal immigration status
- Take an active role in UU and interfaith organizations, including congregation-based community organizations that address the needs of immigrants such as UU Refugee and Immigration Services and Education (UURISE), Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Standing on the Side of Love, and Interfaith Worker Justice
- Call upon the immigrants who are members or friends of UU congregations to share their stories and wisdom openly
- Welcome changes as new immigrants join our congregations
- Encourage the sharing of congregants' cultural heritages and experiences to create personal bonds and enhance appreciation for the contributions of diverse cultures
- Participate in a refugee resettlement program
- Provide tutoring to help immigrants achieve English fluency and other skills

- Incorporate languages other than English into congregational life
- Conduct citizenship classes, voter-rights education, and voter registration drives that target new citizens.

At the denominational level, we can:

- Publicly witness against violations of the human dignity and human rights of immigrants nationally and internationally
- Advocate for moral immigration policies and international conventions, as well as trade, farm and other policies that alleviate the underlying causes of migration
- Support efforts to deconstruct the for-profit prison system that treats humans as commodities and fuels a culture of mass deportation and incarceration
- Share with congregations information about immigration legislation at the national level
- Advocate for expeditious implementation of national commitments made for visas to foreigners who have loyally served alongside our nation’s military
- Join with other faith-based and human rights groups working for improved national policies on immigration; these policies include labor regulations that protect undocumented immigrants at an equivalent level to that provided to citizens
- Provide curricula, resources, current information, and networking opportunities that congregations can use in their immigration education and advocacy efforts
- Support the immigration-related work of the UU United Nations Office, UUSC, and other UU-related organizations such as UURISE and the UU College of Social Justice.

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we take up this call with joy and commitment, celebrating the creative and life-giving diversity of our world’s peoples.

Responsive Resolution

A resolution in response to the report of an officer was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more. It reads:

**Deepen Our Commitment to an Anti-Oppressive,
Multicultural Unitarian Universalist Association**

WHEREAS, the Board-approved Ends for the Association call on the administration to move our Association toward a future in which “UU congregations and communities are intentionally

inclusive, multicultural, and multigenerational;” and

WHEREAS, Moderator Gini Courter, in her report, and Mel Hoover, in his acceptance of the Distinguished Service Award, called upon our Association to recommit to our work in the area of antiracism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association has been engaged in a decades-long struggle to better equip us to be more inclusive across race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and ability, as well as to have a renewed conversation about covenant; and

WHEREAS, those marginalized in our Association and their accountable allies continue to lead us and are need of continued opportunities to be supported in their efforts through mutual support and spiritual sustenance; and

WHEREAS, the need for that struggle has not abated and, indeed, has only been magnified by the demographic, economic and geopolitical changes facing the world in which we live and offer our faith;

THEREFORE:

We call upon the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and his staff to establish a vision for the steps needed to deepen the anti-oppressive and multicultural capacities of the Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations and to identify the systematic, programmatic, and financial resources needed to provide deeper support to congregations and affiliated organizations seeking to move into a deeper anti-oppressive, multicultural understanding.

We also call on the Board of Trustees to ensure that the Board and staff-appointed, Board-appointed, and elected committees of the Association are empowered and encouraged to identify existing and new practices and structures that will lead to greater diversity amongst participants in the work of those committees and a greater sense of inclusion amongst participants, and that will provide for youth- and young adult-led efforts.

We call on the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee to assess the financial and staff resources currently devoted to this work, including those supporting organizations that empower marginalized populations, and to provide an analysis of these expenditures relative to other allocations.

These measures will ensure the deepened understanding, relationships, spiritual renewal, and practical skills necessary to move toward the Beloved Community that we are compelled to build in the name of our faith.

Elections

Moderator (six-year term):

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Jim Key | 945 votes (248 absentee) |
| Tamara Payne-Alex | 905 votes (131 absentee) |

The following persons were elected in uncontested elections:

President

Peter Morales (four-year term)

Financial Advisor

Ed Merck (three-year term)

UUA Board of Trustees

Natalia Averett (one-year term)
Rob Eller-Isaacs (one-year term)
Clyde Grubbs (one-year term)
Michael Sallwasser (three-year term)
Julian Sharp (three-year term)
James Snell (three-year term)
Susan Weaver (one-year term)

(Additionally, the following current trustees were appointed by the Board of Trustees for two-year terms: Donna Harrison, Lew Phinney, Susan Ritchie, Sarah Stewart)

Presidential Search Committee (six-year terms)

Wayne Arnason
Matthew Johnson-Doyle
Michael Tino
Elandria Williams
Jacqui Williams

(Additionally, two appointments for six-year terms will be made by the Board of Trustees)

Board of Review (eight-year terms)

Orlanda Brugnola
Maris Cornell

Commission on Appraisal

Lucy Bunch (six-year term)
John Hawkins (four-year term)
Nathan Hollister (six-year term)
Myriam Renaud (six-year term)

Commission on Social Witness (four-year terms)

Christian Sillari
Kiera Wesley

General Assembly Planning Committee (four-year terms)

Mary Alm
Bart Frost
Debra Boyd Gray
Chip Roush

Nominating Committee (three-year terms)

Sofia Betancourt
Abhimanyu Janamanchi
Ken Wagner

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: Accredited and attending the 52nd General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1346 member delegates, 352 ministerial delegates, 4 credentialed religious educators, 4 associate member delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations). On-site delegates totaled 1735, representing 531 congregations, 49 states, 1 Canadian province, and the District of Columbia.

Additionally, there were 112 off-site delegates, including 93 member delegates and 19 ministerial delegates. Represented were 71 congregations from 26 states.

Total delegates were 1847. Total on-site registration for the Assembly was 3314, including 232 youth.

Closing

The Assembly unanimously thanked Moderator Gini Courter for her superb service and expressed their respect, appreciation, and love and then voted to adjourn *sine die* at 5:45 pm on Sunday, June 23, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Montgomery
Recording Secretary