

Denise Rimes
 UUA Vice Moderator
 January, 2017
 Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

Congregational and other visits

- Ministerial Search Committee meeting (in role as MSR) Williamsburg, VA – December 12, 2016
- Congregational consulting Charlottesville, VA – December 18, 2016
- Ministerial Search Committee Skype meeting (in role as MSR) Memphis, TN – December 19, 2016

Narrative

Since our meeting in June, I have attended meetings on the following topics:

- General Assembly Planning Committee Kansas City, MO – January 13-15, 2017
- APF Task Force
- Congregational Boundaries
- Generosity Network ongoing efforts
- Attended UUA Investment Committee Meeting
- GA Planning Committee monthly calls
- Executive Committee calls

Work has begun to fill Board slots for General Assembly 2017, with presentations from the Journey Towards Wholeness Team, Renewing the Covenant, Commission on Social Witness, and Beloved Conversations.

Slots Av	Primary Contact Organization	Program Title
1	UUA Nominating Committee	Candidate's Forum for UUA Nominating and Appointments Committees
1	UU Funding Program	Funding Our Faith, Funding Our Future
2	Commission on Social Witness	Miniassembly on SOC: Escalating Inequality
1	Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee	Rejoicing in Relationship: Sacred Sharing to Resist Isolation
1	Commission on Appraisal	Commission on Appraisal Report on Class in UUA
1	Commission on Social Witness	Social Witness Sermon Contest
1	Commission on Social Witness	Social Witness Workshop
1	UUA/Socially Responsible Investment Committee	UU Common Endowment Investing in New Orleans Communités
1	Commission on Social Witness	Taking Action to Make Democracy Work
1	Commission on Social Witness	Collective Liberation Decision-making: Reflections for UU Social Witness
1	Ministerial Fellowship Committee	MFC: Aspiring To Be a Learning Committee/Community
4	Board of Trustees	Business Mini-Assemblies
	First Principle By-Law Amendment Mini Assembly	will be submitted by Denise Rimes
	Prophetic People By-Law Amendment Mini Assembly	will be submitted by Denise Rimes
	Appointments Committee	has been submitted by Joe Cherry
	Renewing the Covenant Task Force	will be submitted by Susan Ritchie
1	Board of Trustees	Budget Hearing
1	Beloved Conversations	Denny Davidoff

There are two bylaws amendments that will be brought before the delegates in 2017:

8 ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes

9 Section C-2.1. Principles.

10 We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist

11 Association, covenant to affirm and promote

12 • The inherent worth and dignity of every ~~person~~ being;

The amendment that each congregation would approve reads as follows:

We the (insert congregation name) do hereby call on the General Assembly of the UUA to omit “every person” and replace with “every being” in Article II Principles and Purposes, Section c-2.1 Principles, Line 12, UUA bylaws.

The goals for this change include change the conversation about the religious, spiritual and ethical aspects of living in a multispecies world, changing ourselves by guiding Unitarian Universalists as they seek to improve their ability to participate in, and change these discussions, reflecting more deeply and broadly about what it means to be compassionate in a multispecies world. Changing the first Principle contributes to changing the conversation and changing ourselves.

8 ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes

9 Section C-2.1. Principles.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

23 • Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder,

24 affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit

25 and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

26 • Words and deeds of prophetic ~~women and men~~ people which challenge

27 us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice,

28 compassion and the transforming power of love;

The proposed change will move from women and men gender binary language to reflect more gender neutral and inclusive terminology and will simple read “people”.

Both submissions fulfill the bylaws requirements for amendments:

1732 ARTICLE XV Amendment

1773 (c) Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II. A proposal to amend,

1774 repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall

1775 be subject to the following process

1776 (1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a

1777 regular General Assembly for the purpose of determining

1778 whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission

1779 appointed by the Board of Trustees for study. Such a

1780 study shall involve member congregations. A majority

1781 vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to

1782 refer such a proposal to the study commission. Once the
1783 study of the proposal is complete, which shall be
1784 completed in no more than two years, the study
1785 commission shall submit to the Board of Trustees for
1786 inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General
1787 Assembly any amendments to Article II that the study
1788 commission recommends. The Board of Trustees shall
1789 also include on the agenda any amendments that it
1790 recommends to the study commission proposal.

1873 ***Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

1874 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

1875 (a) the Board of Trustees;

1876 (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;

1877 (c) the Commission on Appraisal; **or**

1878 (d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action

1879 of their governing boards or their congregations; such

1880 proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the

1881 Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the regular

1882 General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than

1883 110 days before the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rimes