UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

47TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
A MEETING OF CONGREGATIONS

Fort Lauderdale, Florida       June 25 - 29, 2008

AGENDA
## Business Process

### Mini-Assemblies

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in Plenary Sessions. Mini-Assemblies offer opportunities in small sessions for delegates to speak on issues, find out more about individual business items before a vote in plenary, and propose amendments to the business item or social witness statement. The Planning Committee or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

### Bylaw and Rule Amendments

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in Room 209-210 of the Convention Center. The Planning Committee is responsible for this session and, immediately afterward, meets to consolidate results and formulate any amendments to be proposed.

### Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Two proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2008 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop Friday at 3:15 p.m. in the Convention Center Grand Floridian D prior to voting in the Plenary Session for one issue for study and action during the coming four years.

### 2006 Congregational Study/Action Issue (Peacemaking)

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2006 General Assembly. A CSAI Forum will be held Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Convention Center Grand Floridian A, and two different workshops will be held, both in the Convention Center Grand Floridian A, one on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and the other on Saturday at 3:15 p.m.

### Actions of Immediate Witness

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#352) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the GA Office (Room 118 in the Convention Center) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption Sunday morning, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken in Plenary Session on Saturday morning, and Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held Saturday at 1:30 a.m. in Rooms 301-302, 317-318, Grand Floridian C, D, E and F in the Convention Center.

### Budget Hearing

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2008 - 2009 budget Friday at 1:30 p.m. in Room 317-318 of the Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the GA Office (Room 118 in the Convention Center) by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A MEETING OF CONGREGATIONS
is an annual opportunity for delegates from member congregations to affirm, promote, and practice the democratic process while conducting the business of the Association.

RULES OF PROCEDURE are adopted at the start of the Assembly. They are printed (as proposed but not necessarily as adopted) in the GA Agenda. The Rules of Procedure are designed to help the delegates effectively represent their congregation.

Speaking in Plenary

Before speaking you must be recognized by the Moderator, and to be recognized you must be at a microphone. The Moderator recognizes you by referring to the microphone (“I recognize the delegate at the Pro microphone…”).

Any delegate may speak; non-delegates need the consent of the Moderator or vote of the Assembly to admit the speaker to the floor. (This happens only rarely.) Once recognized, identify yourself (name and society from which you are a delegate), e.g., “I’m Chris Doe from Rip Roaring Congregation of Great City, Ohio.”

Be succinct and remember you have only two minutes. You may speak on a motion only once as long as others wish to speak.

Speaking time is limited. Do not speak if your point has already been made by another speaker. Be respectful of other delegates by only speaking when you have something important to add to the discussion.

There are four microphones: PRO, CON, PROCEDURE and AMENDMENT

- To speak in favor - go to the PRO mike.
- To speak against - go to the CON mike.
- To make an amendment – go to the AMENDMENT Table for assistance.
- To raise a procedural issue, go to the PROCEDURE mike.

PROcedural questions are limited to:
- Parliamentary inquiry
- Points of order and information
- Question of privilege
- Motions to extend or limit time of debate, change the order of business, recess, or adjourn.

Time used on procedural issues is included in the time set for debating the item on the floor. Procedural issues must be raised at the Procedure microphone. They take precedence over discussion.

The AMENDMENT mike is used only for making an amendment that has first been processed at the Amendment Table.

Debate

There must be 15 minutes of discussion allowed on the motion as printed (or as presented by the Planning Committee or Commission on Social Witness) before an amendment may be proposed unless the Rules of Procedure specify otherwise. If no one is standing at a microphone to speak on the motion as presented, this time may be shortened. The Moderator alternates recognizing speakers at PRO and CON microphones.

After 15 minutes of debate, amendments may be presented. Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. Only one amendment may be presented at a time. (You can’t amend an amendment.) An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each amendment may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a non-business resolution into a Business Resolution; for example, you can’t add language to an Action of Immediate Witness that requires specific action from congregations or the UUA Board or staff. Before an amendment may be presented to the delegates, it must be presented in writing at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike (see also “Mini-Assembly” below).
Some motions must be filed prior to the opening of a session, particularly ones concerning the BUDGET. See Rules of Procedure in the Final Agenda for deadlines and place for filing them.

Motions of Amendment to items on the Agenda, Actions on Reports, etc., may be made as part of the debate. Be careful that your motion does not change the meaning so much that it is a substitute rather than an amendment. At times, you may make a substitute motion but must recognize it as such.

### Voting

Delegates vote by:
- Voice (call for ayes and nays)
- Uncounted show of voting cards
- Counted show of voting cards
- Written ballot

The Moderator is responsible for determining whether a motion passed or failed. A delegate who disagrees with the Moderator’s determination may come to the procedural microphone and ask for a counted vote. At least 99 other delegates must support the request to force the counted vote.

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each Plenary Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace, if lost, and you cannot vote without your card. As a delegate, you may not give your voting card to anyone else to use.

### Mini-Assembly

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to resolutions on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It’s an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments, and, for the Statement of Conscience, to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save Plenary time and permit freer debate than plenaries do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a business resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during plenary debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate mini-assembly.

There is a mini-assembly scheduled for the rule changes listed on the final agenda. All mini-assemblies are listed in the program.

After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in Plenary Session, the Planning Committee may incorporate proposed amendments into a Business Resolution or a Bylaw and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into a Statement of Conscience or an Action of Immediate Witness. For Statements of Conscience, the Commission on Social Witness is required to report all amendments to the GA delegates. The Commission on Social Witness can prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary. If you wish to modify the Statement of Conscience, plan to attend the entire mini-assembly and work collaboratively with other delegates to suggest amendments.

### Budget Hearing

At the Budget Hearing questions may be answered, but no motions may be made. Motions to modify the budget must be made in writing by the time announced in the Rules of Procedure. Budget motions, if adding funds to an item or proposing new spending, must specify which other specific categories are to be reduced. See Rule G-10.1.4.

### Statements of Conscience

Based on feedback from the mini-assembly, the Commission on Social Witness may recommend that the delegates change the length of time the statement is debated before amendments are in order.

Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

### Actions of Immediate Witness

Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that delegates may wish to address immediately. The process for admitting Actions of Immediate Witness to the agenda means that congregations commonly have no opportunity to consider and discuss them in advance of General Assembly, so care should be taken to only submit Actions of Immediate Witness that could not otherwise be accommodated in the Congregational Study/Action Issue process. Consult Article IV, Section 4.16 (b) (1) of the UUA Bylaws for the criteria for an Action of Immediate Witness.

**How many Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the Agenda?** No more than six.
**Guide for Delegates**

**How can a delegate place an Action of Immediate Witness on the Agenda?** Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) booth. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. Then begin collection of signatures from other delegates. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures to the CSW at the GA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

**What happens then?** The Commission will review the AIWs to determine if they meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission will select no more than six from among those submitted which meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission on Social Witness screens proposed Actions of Immediate Witness according to the criteria of grounding, fit and opportunity as well as significance, timeliness and specificity (see bylaw section 4.16). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process. These will be submitted to delegates for admission to the Agenda at the Saturday morning Plenary Session. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, each AIW will be voted on by the delegates for adoption by the General Assembly at the Sunday morning Plenary Session.

**Point of Procedure.** You use this for questioning parliamentary procedure. A delegate may interrupt debate by going to the procedural microphone and saying “Point of Procedure” and wait to be recognized. A sample point is “Is this not an amendment to an amendment?” or “Was a vote taken?”

**Need Information?** Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Planning Committee. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each Plenary Session. When the Assembly is not in session, look for one of them at the GA Office. The Bylaws are in the Program.

**Do you have an amendment? Are you unhappy with wording?** Time constraints preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered in plenary. Preliminary work on agenda items is completed in the mini-assembly.

### Committee of the Whole

When the Assembly is debating a particularly complex or difficult question (there may be two, three, or four alternate versions or ideas) the Moderator may decide, or a delegate may move, that the Assembly move into a “Committee of the Whole” to consider the subject. If done, the Rules of Procedure are eased and the Assembly now acts as a committee.

- A person other than the Moderator may occupy the Chair.
- Discussion may take place without motions.
- The only motions allowable are motions to amend, adopt, or reconsider.
- Non-binding straw votes may be taken.
- The formality of pro/con microphones is somewhat relaxed.
- You may speak only once on a topic in a discussion unless no one else wishes to speak.
- Time limits are relaxed or do not exist unless the “Committee” sets them.

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate moves that the Committee of the Whole “rise and report” specifying the agreed-upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the Plenary Session of the General Assembly is again in session. The motion formulated in the Committee is reported and vote is taken immediately, without debate or possibility of amendment.

**Play Fair.** The guidelines that follow are not subterfuges for you to use to get around time limits. They are designed to make you more knowledgeable and effective.

**Point of Information.** Raise a point of information when you want to get information, not give it. A delegate may request “Point of Information” from any microphone. It’s exactly that: a request for information such as “On what are we voting?” or “What is the cost to the UUA of this motion?” Your question cannot be a statement, and no preface except your identification is permitted.

**Point of Personal Privilege.** Raise a point of personal privilege when your ability to do business is being hampered. Any delegate may request a Point of Personal Privilege. You go to the procedural microphone and say “Point of Personal Privilege” and wait to be recognized by the Moderator. After recognition, identify yourself and state your point (no statement, no argument or preface, just the bare request), such as “It is not possible to hear from the pro microphone” or “Our section was not counted.”

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**To Get Your Questions Answered**
**WEDNESDAY OPENING WORSHIP AND PLENARY I**  
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- 8:00 Welcome to Fort Lauderdale
- The Parade of Banners
- Call to Order
- Review and adopt rules
- Meet the Youth Caucus and Young Adult Caucus Managers
- Meet the Right Relationships Team
- Welcome New Congregations
- Chalice Lighting
- Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata
- Benediction

9:30 Recess

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**FRIDAY PLENARY III**  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

- 8:30 Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- UUA Financial Advisor's Report
- Budget Report
- Report on the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth
- Breakthrough Congregation Presentation: Pacific Unitarian Church
- Song
- Debate/Vote Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Resolution
- Announcements

10:30 Recess

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**THURSDAY PLENARY II**  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

- 8:30 Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Credentials Report
- Meet the General Assembly Planning Committee
- GA Planning Committee Update
- Youth Caucus Presentation
- Young Adult Caucus Presentation
- Accessibilities at General Assembly
- Right Relationship Team Update
- Intro to Breakthrough Congregations
- Breakthrough Congregation Presentation: Unitarian Universalists of Wayne County
- Report of the Commission on Appraisal
- Song
- UUA President's Report
- President's Award for Volunteer Service
- Announcements

10:30 Recess

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*Late arriving items may require rearrangement of the agenda as published.*
## Agenda: Order of Business

### SATURDAY PLENARY IV
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Call to Order</td>
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<td>Chalice Lighting</td>
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<td>UUA Board Report</td>
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<td>Distinguished Service Award</td>
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<td>Song</td>
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<td>Executive Staff Report</td>
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<td>Beacon Press Report</td>
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<td>O. Eugene Pickett Award</td>
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<td>Breakthrough Congregation Presentation: Bull Run Unitarian Universalists</td>
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<td>Report of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee</td>
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<td>UU Service Committee Report</td>
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<td>Collection for UUA/UUSC Gulf Coast Volunteer Program</td>
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<td>UU Women's Federation Report</td>
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<td>GA Service Project Information</td>
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<td>Breakthrough Congregation Presentation: Unity Temple</td>
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<td>Recognition of Green Sanctuaries</td>
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<td>Song</td>
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<td>Introduction of Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) process</td>
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<td>Selection of Congregational Study Action Issue</td>
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<td>Implementation of Past Statements of Conscience (SOC)</td>
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<td>Socially Responsible Investing Update</td>
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<td>Congregationally Based Community Organizing Update</td>
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<td>How Actions of Immediate Witness are implemented</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
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### SUNDAY PLENARY V
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Call to Order</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chalice Lighting</td>
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<td>Congregationally Based Community Organizing Update</td>
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<td>Debate/Vote on Bylaw Amendments: Article VII, Section 7.6 and Article XI, Sections C-11.1 and Section 11.2 through 11.9</td>
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<td>Debate/Vote on Bylaw Amendment G-12.2.1 - Establishing Districts</td>
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<td>Song</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debate/Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness (to be continued in Plenary VI)</td>
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<td>Announcements</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
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### SUNDAY PLENARY VI
3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
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<td>Chalice Lighting</td>
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<td>Continue Debate/Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness</td>
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<td>Song</td>
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<td>Moderator's Report</td>
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<td>Recognizing the folks who made GA happen</td>
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<td>Responsive Resolutions (if any)</td>
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<td>Invitation to Salt Lake City</td>
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<td>Final credentials and announcements</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>5:30</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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</table>
RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS
Consideration of and action upon items must proceed in the order set forth in the Final Agenda unless during the meeting that order is changed by majority vote.

RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING
So long as a quorum is present, action on any question, unless the Bylaws otherwise provide, will be decided in the first instance by an uncounted show of hands/voting cards. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that 99 other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Congregational Study/Action Issues (Rule 11) and votes that are part of the Open Space Technology process, including plenary votes to prioritize the results of Open Space workshops, no vote will be taken by written ballot unless the delegates order a written ballot by a two-thirds vote. Provided a quorum is present at each Plenary Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the delegates will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

RULE 3. MINUTES
The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees will approve the minutes of the General Assembly Plenary Sessions, which will be prepared by the Recording Secretary in consultation with Legal Counsel.

RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS
The provisions of Rule 5 notwithstanding, the Planning Committee and/or the Commission on Social Witness will, at their discretion, move the item as printed on the Final Agenda or move an amended version of the item.

RULE 5. AMENDMENTS
Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion and motions to refer, table or to call the question will not be in order until there has been at least fifteen minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. Amendments to a business resolution, a bylaw, a rule, or a proposed amendment must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate mini-assembly in order to be offered in the plenary session. No amendment or other change to any motion under consideration will be entertained unless it is submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the Moderator, who may, however, waive this requirement.

RULE 6. TIME LIMITS
The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Study Action Issues and UUA Statement of Conscience. If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

a) No person may speak on any motion for more than two minutes, and not more than once, so long as there are others who have not spoken who desire the floor, except that persons having special information may, with the permission of the Moderator, reply to questions.

b) Thirty minutes is allowed for discussion of any proposed bylaw or rule amendment, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between proponents and opponents and by the alternate recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con.

c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question on a motion to amend the main motion is in order after 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment.
RULE 7. MICROPHONES
a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated “Pro” or “Con” is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.
b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone designated “Amendment” is limited to presenters of motions and members of the Board of Trustees who may use the microphone only for:
   1) making an amendment to a main motion or another amendment, provided the motion is otherwise in order;
   2) using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and
   3) stating the Board of Trustees’ position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board takes a position.
c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone.

RULE 8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, at his or her discretion from time to time may order the meeting resolved into a Committee of the Whole or reconvened in regular Session. While the meeting is acting as a Committee of the Whole, the following Special Rule will apply: The Presiding Officer, without a vote of the Committee of the Whole, may permit reconsideration of any action taken by the Committee of the Whole and other departures of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure if it appears to him or her that the work of the Committee of the Whole will thereby be expedited.

When the General Assembly is reconvened, the only motion in order will be to adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. A motion recommended by the Committee of the Whole will not be subject to amendment, debate, or delay.

RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION
Any motion concerning the 2008 - 2009 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing at the General Assembly Office not later than 5:00 p.m. Saturday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA
A Resolution or Action not on the Final Agenda may be considered only under the following circumstances:
   a) under Bylaw Section 4.16, which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions;
   b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.
The author of a Responsive Resolution must notify the Moderator of the title and content of their Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so. A resolution submitted to the Commission on Social Witness for consideration as an Action of Immediate Witness may not be submitted as a Responsive Resolution.

RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES
Pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12(a):
In a year in which Congregational Study/Action Issue(s) are proposed, up to five Congregational Study/Action Issues may be presented to the General Assembly. A sponsor of a Congregational Study/Action Issue determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible for consideration will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining the vote necessary to be selected as the Congregational Study/Action Issue referred for study. Following the presentation by the sponsors for all Congregational Study/Action Issues eligible for consideration, time will be provided for up to four additional statements of support for each Congregational Study/Action
Issue. Persons wishing to speak shall use the microphone designated for the Congregational Study/Action Issue for which he/she advocates.

After debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates for which one of the Congregational Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Congregational Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no 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.

**Rule 12. UUA Statement of Conscience**

One hour will be allowed for debate.

The Commission on Social Witness may recommend for delegate approval by majority vote an amount of time for the Statement to be debated before amendments are in order. If no such recommendation is proposed and approved, no amendment shall be in order unless there has been at least 30 minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience.

A motion to amend a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a mini-assembly as described in Rule 4.12.4. Up to twelve minutes will be allowed for the debate of an amendment.

The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary.

**Rule 13. Actions of Immediate Witness**

a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.

b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.

c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(2) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the General Assembly Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday.

d) The Commission on Social Witness may provide a summary of the Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria for admission to the agenda during Friday morning’s plenary and seek a sense of the meeting.

e) Each sponsor of an Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda under Bylaw Section 4.16(b) will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.

f) The sponsor will move admission at a Plenary Session scheduled before vote on the action is to occur and when called upon to do so by the Moderator.

g) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.

h) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a mini-assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(4).

i) Twenty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness. No amendment shall be in order unless there have been at least twelve minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness.

j) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during Plenary on Sunday morning. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(5).


These Rules of Procedure will be adopted by a two-thirds vote and may be amended, suspended, or repealed during the course of the Assembly only by a two-thirds vote, except for the preceding Rule 9, the amendment, suspension, or repeal of which requires a four-fifths vote.

**Rule 15. Adjournment**

The final business session of the 2008 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 5:30 p.m., Sunday, June 29.
Title: “Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice”
Proposed CSAI-1 (2008-2012)

Issue: Religious organizations throughout the world have discussed the production, distribution, and use of food. Some people enjoy many food choices while others remain hungry. The food industry produces wealth, but small farmers and farm workers are often poor. Food production and transportation contribute to many environmental problems.

Background and Reasons for Study: Congregations can develop effective strategies to address two of the world’s biggest problems: social inequality and environmental destruction. This Congregational Study/Action Issue is inspired by the work of the several Unitarian Universalist affiliate and associate organizations that work with congregations in support of environmental justice.

Hunger is both a community problem and an international problem that can be approached in a variety of ways. There is a need for political advocacy in support of government programs that try to feed the hungry. There is a need also for involvement with service programs that deliver food to individuals and families – for example, Meals on Wheels programs.

Significance to Unitarian Universalism: Unitarian Universalists have a vision of environmental justice. One of our principles acknowledges “the interdependent web.” Others affirm the importance of human rights. Together our principles form one holistic statement that helps to define liberal religion.

Possible Study Topics:
- There are different religious teachings concerning the production, distribution, and use of food. Why is food so important in religion?
- There are environmental concerns and concerns about animal rights and human rights. What moral guidelines, if any, should govern food production?
- Some people have too much food and some have too little. How should congregations address issues like poverty and hunger, nutrition education, and health promotion?
- What guidelines, if any, govern the purchase and use of food and beverages in your congregation? Do you pause for a blessing when you serve food?

Possible Actions:
- Support sustainable agriculture and farmers’ markets. Encourage organic community gardening.
- Volunteer in support of community food pantries, Meals on Wheels programs, and similar projects that address the problem of hunger.
• Become an advocate for social and economic justice. Support labor unions, farmers’
cooperatives, “fair trade” associations, and other organizations that help the farmers and other
workers who produce and distribute food in the global market.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Ending Hunger (1987 General Resolution); Environmental Justice
(1994 General Resolution); Nutrition for a Healthy Start in Life (1994 General Resolution); Support of United Farm
Workers (2005 Action of Immediate Witness).

**Clarifying Statement:** The first paragraph of Background and Reasons for Study has been amended from the
original proposal in agreement with the proposing congregation, the previously cited UUSC, and the
Commission on Social Witness to identify accurately the source of the work inspiring this proposal.
Title: “Nuclear Disarmament”
Proposed CSAI-2 (2008-2012)

Issue: Should the Unitarian Universalist Association work with other faith communities to advocate a dramatic reduction in the world’s nuclear weapons inventories, primarily those of the United States and Russia, in favor of reinvigorated nuclear arms control agreements and principles, such as those embodied in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty?

Background and Reasons for Study: Two hundred well-placed nuclear weapons could drive civilized society back to the Stone Age. Each of these weapons can kill more than 100,000 in populated and targeted areas. The Nunn-Lugar Act, funded by Congress in 1994, allows money to be spent to help Russia stabilize its large number of unsecured weapons materials facilities and to identify, destroy, and dispose of a portion of its nuclear weapons.

Significance to Unitarian Universalism: UUA principles stand “violated” by each of the more than 2,000 bombs that remain on hair-trigger alert in Russia and the United States and by the national policies that appear to provide in perpetuity for the maintenance of large numbers of nuclear weapons. Advocacy of a position against nuclear weaponry is highly consistent with UUA principles, which show support and respect for the interdependent web of all life and for the goal of world peace.

Possible Study Questions:
- What is the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and what is the United States policy on nuclear weapons?
- At present, who are those engaged in nuclear proliferation, and what are the prospects of using diplomacy to reduce the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction?
- How much nuclear deterrence is enough; and how did we get to the point of having the level of nuclear bombs and weapons that we have?
- Could a mutual reduction be encouraged and negotiated? If so, by what factor might it be possible to reduce the “overkill” potential of the United States and Russian nuclear arsenals for mutually assured destruction?
- What actions might make nuclear weapons reduction possible politically, and how long would it take to accomplish such a reduction under different scenarios of funding and political support?
- What is the Nunn-Lugar Act, and what have its accomplishments been? What level of funding has been provided for this Act, and what can be accomplished with the amount currently requested and authorized?

Possible Actions:
- Form a nuclear weapons study group and become familiar with reliable sources of information.
- Appoint study group members or experts to report to the congregation on the various study questions at congregational forums.
Proposed Congegational Study/Action Issues

- Promote adoption at district meetings of non-proliferation and anti-nuclear arms control statements of policy and conscience.
- Form a social action group to develop informed opinions to lobby politicians and to write letters to the editors of local papers (individually or on behalf of the social action group.)
- Collaborate with district or area congregations in offering study opportunities and forums.

**Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** From 1961 to 1986 there were 27 Unitarian Universalist resolutions of various kinds that included a nuclear weapons component. Nineteen of these were specifically concerned with nuclear weapons. The most representative and recent resolutions are: Maintaining the SALT II and ABM Treaties (General Resolution 1986); Nuclear Free Zone (General Resolution 1985); Mutual Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban (General Resolution 1985)
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

This amendment was placed on the Agenda by the Board of Trustees.
Vote by the Board on the following amendment: For 24-0-0

77 Rule G-12.2.1. Establishing Districts.
78 (a) The districts shall be [twenty] nineteen in number and named Ballou Channing,
79 Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay,
80 Metropolitan New York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, [Northeast, New Hampshire
81 Vermont] Northern New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest,
82 Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwestern, and Thomas Jefferson.
The following proposed Bylaw changes reflect changes in Ministerial Fellowship Committee practices and Rules.

The following amendments were placed on the Agenda by the Board of Trustees.
Vote by the Board on the following amendments: For 24-0-0

ARTICLE VII  Committees Of The Board Of Trustees

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.
The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of fourteen members as follows:
(a) Six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
(b) Six members who are ministers in [full and] final fellowship with the Association,
(with at least one from each category of ministry including community ministry,)
appointed by the Board; and
(c) Two members appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Two members of the committee, and only two, shall be trustees. The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

ARTICLE XI  Ministry

Section C-11.1. Ministerial Fellowship.
Each member society has the exclusive right to call and ordain its own minister or ministers, but the Association has the exclusive right to admit ministers to ministerial fellowship with the Association. Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish, religious education and/or community ministry as determined by action of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. No minister shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed, belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold fellowship.

Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.
The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship except as otherwise provided [herein] in these bylaws. It shall make rules governing ministerial fellowship, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.
A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to preliminary fellowship for a [probationary] period of at least three years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to final fellowship. [Three years as an accredited director of religious education may be considered as satisfying the time requirement for granting of final fellowship as minister of religious education.]
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

[Section 11.4. Classes of Ministerial Fellowship.
The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall adopt rules related to classes of ministerial fellowship which shall include full and associate fellowship.
(a) Ministers in full fellowship are those admitted to fellowship who are:
   (1) engaged in full-time active ministerial service;
   (2) actively seeking positions in such service and have recently so served; and
   (3) retired from such service by reason of advanced age or illness.
(b) Ministers in associate fellowship are those in fellowship who are not currently in full fellowship.]

Section [11.5.] 11.4 Fellowship Records.
The Executive Secretary of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all ministers in fellowship with the Association. [Such] These records shall be available only to members of the Committee, persons designated by the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

Section [11.6.] 11.5 [Suspension or] Termination of Fellowship and Administrative Suspension.
The fellowship of a minister may be [suspended or] terminated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or other specified cause. Final fellowship may be [suspended or] terminated only after notice [by the Committee] and opportunity for a [hearing] Fellowship Review [at which the minister shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to introduce evidence, to have any relevant and material evidence in the possession of the Association produced, and to cross-examine and rebut adverse evidence.] During an investigation or the pending of a complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a minister until a final determination can be made on the minister’s fellowship status.

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may reinstate or readmit to fellowship a minister who has previously resigned from fellowship or whose fellowship has been suspended or terminated.

Section [11.8.] 11.7 Appeal.
A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is terminated may appeal the determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.
Section [11.9.] **11.8** Procedure on Appeal.

An appeal to the Board of Review [shall] may be heard by a panel of the Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its panel hearing an appeal shall [not try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the introduction of newly discovered evidence.] limit its review to an examination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s decision, and the information presented to the Committee, including the documents and other evidence compiled during the Fellowship Review, and the reasons articulated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for its decision terminating the minister’s fellowship. If the minister requests consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously presented to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, then the matter shall be returned to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for consideration of that evidence before the Board proceeds with the appeal. These Bylaws and the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s determination of fact and/or credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder could have reached such determination, and disputes of fact are to be resolved in favor of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s Review Team’s determination. [The panel shall uphold the decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee if it can be sustained by a reasonable view of the record.] The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the decision of the Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of Review or its panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the Committee or take such other action as may be just. The [decision of the panel, which shall be the decision of the Board.] Board of Review or its panel shall set forth its finding and conclusions and [shall be served] will serve upon the affected minister and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The decision shall be entered in the appropriate records and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section.
The following Business Resolution was placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees. Adoption requires a two-thirds vote.

Vote by the Board of Trustees on the proposed Business Resolution: For 24-0-0

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association Bylaws state that our Association promotes “the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to . . . age”; and

WHEREAS statement #12, “Support, Integrate, and Retain youth and young adults to keep our congregations vibrant and growing” in the Open Space Technology Process at General Assembly 2007 received the largest number of votes, 773 votes (representing 12.4 % of the votes cast); and

WHEREAS the future of our denomination benefits from the full participation of youth and young adults to enliven, grow and sustain our Unitarian Universalist movement, principles and ideals, including the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large; and

WHEREAS Youth and Young Adult empowerment is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people to create intergenerational equity; and

WHEREAS unique opportunities at the congregational, district and continental level for youth and young adult self-direction create synergy for a larger youth and young adult identity and promote communication and connections between local youth and young adults across the continent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Unitarian Universalist Association, its congregations and district structures to:

1. Invite ministerial support to youth and young adults through inclusive worship intentional presence; and

2. Invest financial support in youth and young adult leadership bodies and programs when viable; and

3. Provide support for youth and young adult staff and volunteers to receive suitable training and resources, including self-directed anti-racism and anti-oppression trainings; and

4. Attend to the needs of youth and young adult constituents with marginalized identities by providing resources and opportunities within the congregation and at the district and continental levels.
Preamble:
Liberty is at the core of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Civil liberties are at the heart of our American experiment in democracy. Those civil liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, Amendments I through X to the Constitution of the United States of America, are as fundamental to our practice of democracy as freedom of conscience is to our actions of faith.

Civil liberties carry a history of conflict and struggle between rights for all and privilege for some, between individual liberty and general security, between personal need and the common good, between the aspiration to reason and tolerance and the inclination to scapegoat and punish. Our democracy has the ability to balance these competing claims. Democratic process is at the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Our Unitarian Universalist Principles are grounded in freedom, reason, and tolerance. Ours is a tradition that has sought to uphold the sanctity of the individual voice. We have affirmed that human beings need not adhere to the same beliefs or draw upon the same sources of meaning to discern the common good.

Background:
As Unitarian Universalists, we look to American history, the history of our faith movement, and our shared Principles and Purposes to help us determine the appropriate balance between freedom and security. Prophetic people of all faiths have been instrumental in defending liberty throughout history. We stand on the shoulders of those who have fought to uphold civil liberties. Civil liberties are also essential to the free expression and practice of our faith tradition and to the diversity of faith traditions in America. They are further essential to our ability as citizens to fully engage the political process and hold our leaders accountable.

Unitarian Universalists are gravely concerned with the current erosion of American civil liberties. Our criminal justice system has seen increases in police brutality, harsher sentencing, racial profiling, and a call by our leaders for quicker resort to the death penalty. The “War on Drugs” has given the United States the dubious distinction of having the highest incarceration rate among economically advanced nations. Federal funding for faith-based initiatives has threatened religious liberty by compromising the independence and equality of different religious groups.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, created a climate of fear that has escalated these threats to our liberties and made possible an ill-defined “War on Terrorism.” The message from our government is that the United States cannot be both safe and free. Building on a pre-September 11 current of diminished civil liberties, the USA PATRIOT Act was signed into law on October 26, 2001. This Act permits the unlimited detention and deportation of foreign nationals on the basis of suspicion and without due process of law. It redefines the scope of terrorism law to include domestic associations, rendering citizen organizations, including communities of faith, subject to secret surveillance and investigation. It allows the FBI to investigate American citizens without probable cause if the agents consider it for “intelligence purposes.” It permits law enforcement agencies to conduct secret searches, including phone and Internet surveillance, and grants access to medical, banking, employment, library, and other personal records with fewer considerations of due process.
Dissent has been branded as unpatriotic and tantamount to aiding and abetting terrorism. Emboldened by the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, the administration of President George W. Bush has interrogated thousands of Arab and South Asian immigrants, incarcerated hundreds in the United States on minor immigration charges or material witness claims, and detained over 1,200 foreign nationals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, without due process or compliance with the Geneva Convention. Military tribunals have been empowered to convict suspected terrorists on the basis of hearsay and secret evidence and without independent judicial review. Individuals have been denied the ability to travel by airplane because they are on a government no-fly list. All this has happened in an oppressive political climate in which Unitarian Universalists and others have too frequently failed to raise voices of reason and forbearance. This failure is evidenced by the hundreds of people who have been arrested and subjected to excessive force and the denial of due process for exercising their constitutionally protected freedoms through lawful protests, rallies, vigils, and signage. Because so many of our global neighbors look to the United States as a model of democracy, the erosion of American civil liberties gives permission to governments elsewhere to similarly erode civil liberties.

Freedom sacrificed for safety is no longer freedom. Americans discovered this in the aftermath of the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the infamous Palmer raids of 1920, the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s. We are discovering it today.

**Call To Action:**
As people of faith, and as Americans, we are called to action. We are called to reclaim our heritage as Unitarian Universalists and become vigilant stewards of our democracy. We are called as individuals, as congregations, and as an association of congregations to let our leaders know that some current policies are unacceptable. Therefore:

- We hold public officials accountable and insist that they refrain from supporting policies and legislation that further limit civil liberties.

- We demand that Attorney General John Ashcroft be held fully accountable for his advocacy of policies that have eroded civil liberties, including the refusal to provide constitutionally guaranteed legal representation to detained individuals, American citizens and non-citizens alike.

- We urge Congressional oversight committees publicly to monitor federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, to ensure that the excesses of the past do not become the norms of the future.

- We demand repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act and call upon local officials to adopt resolutions urging its repeal and declaring their intention not to enforce its onerous provisions.

- We oppose the proposed Domestic Security Enhancement Act (PATRIOT II), whether proposed as a separate legislative act or as parts of other legislation.

- We oppose implementation of the “total information awareness” data-mining program of the Department of Defense; efforts to revive the Terrorism Information and Prevention System (“TIPS”) program of the Department of Justice, which sought to recruit Americans to spy on other Americans; and profiling based on nationality, ethnicity, or religion.

- We oppose nominees to the federal appeals courts or the Supreme Court whose records demonstrate insensitivity to the protection of civil liberties.
• We affirm the right of foreign nationals to due process and the presumption of innocence, and we oppose unwarranted tracking and reporting requirements that abridge those rights.

• We appeal to public officials and the media to support constitutional protections enshrined in the Bill of Rights. We encourage adult education classes focused on the guarantees of the Bill of Rights and urge public and private schools to include this focus in their regular curricula.

• We support the civil liberties activity of such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Amnesty International USA, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Center for Public Integrity, The Electronic Frontier Foundation, Human Rights First, The Interfaith Alliance, People for the American Way, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office.

Conclusion:
Nearly every generation faces grave challenges to the liberties for which so many men and women have fought—the liberties for which many of our ancestors placed themselves in peril so that future generations could live in freedom. Balancing freedom and security is our challenge. Let us heed the words of Benjamin Franklin engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty, “They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

The ultimate test of democracy is the will to protect the rights of whomever we deem “the other.” It is what matters most in a nation struggling to realize the promise of liberty and justice for all. It is a matter of conscience and faith.

Background: This Unitarian Universalist Association Statement of Conscience (SOC) builds upon previous social witness statements on civil liberties adopted in 1963 (Support for the Bill of Rights) and in 2002 (Support for the International Criminal Court). In June 2002, the General Assembly of the UUA selected “Civil Liberties” as the issue suggested to congregations for two years of study, action, and reflection. The Commission on Social Witness (CSW) received initial reports from congregations and districts in March 2003. In June 2003, the CSW held a workshop on this issue at General Assembly. A draft Statement of Conscience was distributed to all congregations and districts for comment in the fall of 2003. Comments were reviewed by the CSW at its March 2004 meeting. A mini-assembly was held on Friday, June 25, 2004, for amendments – many of which were incorporated into the final version. Delegates of the 2004 General Assembly voted, by overwhelming majority, to adopt this SOC. The text of other UUA Statements of Conscience can be found at the UUA website (www.uua.org/actions) and the CSW website (www.uua.org/csw).
UUA BYLAWS

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ARTICLE I Name

Section C-1.1. Name.
The name of this Association shall be Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the successor to the American Unitarian Association, which was founded in 1825 and incorporated in 1847, and the Universalist Church of America, which was founded in 1793 and incorporated in 1866.

ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes

Section C-2.1. Principles.
We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual and intellectual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:
8. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
9. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
10. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
11. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
12. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
13. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Section C-2.2. Purposes.
The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.

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-2.4. Freedom of Belief.
Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Unitarian and Universalist heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test.

ARTICLE III Membership

Section C-3.1. Member Congregations.
The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, referred to herein as member congregations, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together.

Section C-3.2. Congregational Polity.
Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as infringing upon the congregational polity or internal self-government of member congregations, including the exclusive right of each such congregation to call and ordain its own minister or ministers, and to control its own property and funds. Any action by a member congregation called for by these Bylaws shall be deemed to have been taken if certified by an authorized officer of the congregation as having been duly and regularly taken in accordance with its own procedures and the laws which govern it.

Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.
A church or fellowship may become a member congregation upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written application for membership in which it subscribes to the principles of and pledges to support the Association. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section.

Section C-3.4. Church of the Larger Fellowship.
The Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, shall be a member congregation which is not considered to be located in any particular district.

Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.
A member congregation shall be recognized as certified during the fiscal year of the Association in which it becomes a member and during each subsequent fiscal year in which it established that it meets the requirements set forth herein for any fiscal year of the Association.
Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.

A church or fellowship 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 and shall do so only after consultation with:

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

Section C-3.7. Associate Member Qualifications.

The Board of Trustees may admit to associate membership in the Association any major organization whose membership or constituency consists of individuals located throughout the Association and whose purposes and programs it finds to be auxiliary to and supportive of the principles of the Association and which pledges itself to support the Association. The Board of Trustees may terminate such associate membership upon a finding that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications.

The Board of Trustees may adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of associate membership. An associate member organization shall be recognized as certified during the fiscal year in which it becomes a member, and during each subsequent fiscal year if it has made a financial contribution to the Association during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities or finances of any associate member.

Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.

The Board of Trustees may admit to affiliated status those independently constituted and operated organizations whose purposes and intentions it finds to be in sympathy with the principles of the Association, and which pledges itself to support the Association. The Board of Trustees may terminate such affiliate status upon a finding that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications or is not in compliance with the rules relating to such organizations. The status granted is that of independent affiliate. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of affiliated status. The requirements shall include financial support of the Association in an amount determined for the purposes of this section either (i) by the number of members of the congregation divided by fifty, plus one delegate for any fraction remaining; provided that each certified member congregation shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

Section C-3.9. Autonomy of Associate Member Organizations and Independent Affiliate Organizations.

Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as infringing upon the control of associate member organizations and independent affiliate organizations by their own membership.

Section C-3.10 Members of Member Congregations.

For the purposes of these Bylaws, a member of a member congregation is any individual who pursuant to its procedures has full or partial voting rights at business meetings of the congregation and who is certified as such by an authorized officer of the congregation.

ARTICLE IV General Assembly

Section C-4.1. Meetings of the Association.

Each meeting of the Association for the conduct of business shall be called a General Assembly.

Section C-4.2. Powers and Duties.

General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs.

Section 4.3. Regular General Assembly.

A regular General Assembly shall be held at such time during each fiscal year of the Association as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.

A special General Assembly may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon petition of not less than fifty certified member congregations by action of the governing boards or their congregations. No more than twenty of the fifty congregations may be from the same district.

Section 4.5. Place of Meeting.

Each regular or special General Assembly shall be held at such place in the United States or Canada as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

Section 4.6. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of each regular and special General Assembly shall be given not less than sixty days before the date thereof in such form and manner as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Such notice shall state the place, date, and hour of the meeting. Notice of each special General Assembly shall indicate at whose direction it is being called.

Section 4.7. Voting.

Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

Each delegate and trustee shall have only one vote, even if present in more than one capacity. Proxy voting is prohibited except when voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified member organizations, and trustees.

Each delegate and trustee shall have only one vote, even if present in more than one capacity. Proxy voting is prohibited except when the amendment being processed is an amendment of the articles of organization.

Section 4.8. Delegates.

(a) Member Delegates. Each certified member congregation is entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by delegates who are members of such congregation, selected in accordance with its bylaws or procedures. The Church of the Larger Fellowship is entitled to 22 such delegates. Other certified member congregations are entitled to that number of such delegates determined as follows: the number of delegates of a certified member congregation shall be equal to the number of members of the congregation divided by fifty, plus one delegate for any fraction remaining; provided that each certified member congregation shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

The number of members of a certified member congregation which is a member of more than one denomination shall be determined for the purposes of this section either (i) by dividing the number of members of the federated church by the number of denominations included in the federation, or, (ii) at the option of the federated church, by reporting the number of members of the federated church.
actual number of members who identify themselves as Unitarian Universalists.

(b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates. Each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in full or associate ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such congregation, and by the director or directors of religious education having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Masters Level status by the Association and employed in such congregation. In addition, each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by any minister emeritus or minister emerita of such congregation in ministerial fellowship with the Association and by any director of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Masters Level status by the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of the member congregation not less than six months prior to the General Assembly, provided that any such minister has been settled previously in such congregation, and any such director of religious education who has been previously employed in such congregation.

(c) Associate Member Delegates. Each certified associate member organization is entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by two delegates who are members of a certified congregation.

Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

The Board of Trustees shall make rules for the accreditation of delegates and voting procedures. Such rules may include the requirements of payment of a registration fee, a travel fund fee, or both, in order to vote at a General Assembly, except that these requirements shall not apply to the right to cast a ballot for any elective position at large.

Section 4.10. Quorum.

Not less than 300 accredited delegates representing not less than 100 certified member congregations located in not less than 10 states or provinces shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special General Assembly.

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
(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. Following the Meeting of the General Assembly, the Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly.

(3) The 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 on the selected issue shall have been referred for study in accordance with (i) above, shall then proceed to the ballot vote concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience being 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, the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the revised draft UUA Statement of Conscience to the Commission on Social Witness 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 for the next regular meeting of 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 cast among all proposed Congregational Study/Action issues. The General Assembly, 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 related 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.

(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 related resource guide to the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the workshop to discuss processes for study and action, the General Assembly shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.

(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.
Final Agenda with a proposal to drop such Congregational Study/Action Issue.


If the Board of Trustees votes to schedule one or more regular General Assemblies to begin in a month other than June, the Board of Trustees shall forthwith revise the UUA Statements of Conscience process schedule set forth in Section 4.12 accordingly and shall immediately notify the member congregations, the districts and the Commission on Social Witness of the revised schedule in writing.


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.

Section 4.15. Agenda for Special General Assemblies.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare the agenda for each special General Assembly which shall include resolutions and proposed amendments to Rules submitted by:

(a) the Board of Trustees;

(b) the petition, if any, which calls the special General Assembly; or

(c) not less than 50 certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations, with no more than 20 of the 50 congregations from the same district.

The agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee not less than 30 days before the General Assembly.

Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies.

(a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters may be admitted to the agenda by a regular General Assembly.

(b) Not more than six General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness, (year) may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and acted upon.

(1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, (year) is one concerned with a significant action, event or development the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to be addressed by a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.

(2) The petition to admit such resolutions to the agenda must be signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations in at least five districts. If six petitions or fewer are received, all petitions received that have the requisite level of delegate and congregation support are eligible to be considered for possible admission to the Agenda. In the event more than six petitions are submitted that satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the Commission on Social Witness shall select six from among those which meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, (year) and shall submit those six actions to the Agenda of the General Assembly (along with a tentative designation of scope, i.e., U.S. or Continental) for possible admission.

(3) The motion to admit each General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) Action of Immediate Witness, (year) ruled eligible is not debatable, but an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy to the General Assembly for each eligible action by one of its sponsors prior to any such motion shall be provided. Admission of a General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) Action of Immediate Witness, (year) shall be by a two-thirds vote.

(4) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each admitted action shall be discussed and amendments 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 each General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) Action of Immediate Witness, (year), 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.

(5) Adoption of a General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) Action of Immediate Witness, (year) shall be by a two-thirds vote.

(6) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(b) must be in writing and filed with the Chair of the Commission on Social Witness or the Commission's designee by the deadline established by the Commission and announced at the opening session of the Assembly.
ARTICLE V Committees of the Association

Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

(3) the Nominating Committee;
(4) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
(5) the Commission on Appraisal;
(6) the Commission on Social Witness; and
(7) the Board of Review.

Section 5.2. Election and Terms of Office.

Elected members of all Section 5.1 committees shall take office at the Board of Review. Members of the Commission on Social Witness shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Section 5.2 or Section 5.6, the following provisions shall be applicable to the Nominating Committee or the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election.

Responsive Resolutions may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and acted upon.

A Responsive Resolution is a resolution made in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly.

Adoption of a Responsive Resolution shall be by two-thirds vote.

Section 4.17. Items Admitted to Special General Assembly Agenda.

Except for non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters, no item not on the agenda of a Special General Assembly shall be admitted to the agenda of that Assembly.

Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.

General Assemblies shall adopt rules relating to the agenda.


Rules of procedure for the conduct of the meeting shall be adopted at each General Assembly.

Section 5.3. Qualifications of Committee Members.

In order to qualify to be appointed or to continue as a member of a standing committee of the Association, a person must be a member of a member congregation.

Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.

A member of any 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 otherwise unable to carry out the duties of the office.

Section 5.5. Vacancies.

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected member of a standing committee of the Association shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine elected members. The Nominating Committee shall be elected, three of whom shall be elected for six-year terms and at least one candidate for a four-year term. The Nominating Committee shall propose at least three candidates for six-year terms and at least one candidate for a four-year term. The provisions of this paragraph shall expire immediately following the 2003 regular General Assembly.

Section 5.7. General Assembly Planning Committee.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight members elected by the General Assembly and two members appointed at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly held in odd numbered years. The General Assembly Planning Committee shall prepare the agenda for each regular General Assembly and shall be responsible for arrangements for 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 5.8. Commission on Appraisal.

The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine elected members. A member shall not during the term of office hold any salaried position in the Association, and shall not be eligible for re-election to the Nominating Committee or the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Section 5.2 or Section 5.6, the following provisions shall be applicable to the Nominating Committee or the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election.

(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 5.9. Commission on Social Witness.

The Commission on Social Witness shall consist of three members elected by the General Assembly and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. The election and appointment of members shall occur only at regular General Assemblies held in odd numbered years.
Section 5.10. 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; and

(2) One member who is a credentialed religious educator-masters 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. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year one person who is neither a minister nor a credentialed religious educator shall be elected and serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year there shall be elected either a minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a credentialed religious educator-masters level as described in section (a)(2) above, who shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified. In the first election in an odd-numbered year following the adoption of the amendment to this subsection (b) as stated above, the election shall be of a credentialed religious educator, and this sentence shall thereafter be deleted from this subsection.

Section 5.11. Additional Committees.

Additional committees may be created by any General Assembly by adoption of a resolution which shall state the membership, terms, qualifications, method of selection, and duties thereof.

Section 5.12. Presiding Officer.

Each committee shall elect a presiding officer from among its members at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year. In the absence of such election the Board of Trustees may designate a temporary presiding officer from among members of the committee.

Section 5.13. Time and Place of Meetings.

Each committee shall hold meetings at such times and places as it may determine.
representing the Prairie Star district and the St. Lawrence district no longer qualify as trustees, by reason of expiration of term or vacancy created as referred to in Section 6.8(b).

Section 6.7. Resignation and Removal of Trustees.
684 A trustee may at any time resign by giving written notice to the Board of Trustees. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then on delivery. A trustee may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the entire Board at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board is present if in the opinion of the Board such trustee is incapacitated or otherwise unable to carry out the duties of the office.

Section 6.8. Vacancies.
687 (a) Trustee at Large. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee at large shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining trustees until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.
688 (b) Trustee Representing District. A vacancy created by death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee representing a district or by the creation of a new district entitled to be represented by a trustee shall be governed by the bylaws of the district and Section 9.11 of these Bylaws subject to the following limitations:
689 (1) If fewer than two regular General Assemblies have met and adjourned since the General Assembly at which the trustee took office, the governing body of the district shall make an interim appointment until the position is filled by a special election within one year from the date the vacancy occurs;
690 (2) If the vacancy occurs at any other point in the term, either the governing body of the district shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term or the District shall provide for an interim appointment by its governing body until the position is filled by a special election.
691 An invalid election does not create a vacancy for purposes of this section.

Section 6.9. Place of Meeting.
692 The Board of Trustees shall hold its meetings at such places as the Board may determine.

Section 6.10. Regular Meetings.
693 Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such times as the Board may determine. No fewer than three regular meetings of the Board shall be held during each fiscal year of the Association.

Section 6.11. Special Meetings.
694 Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the Moderator or President, and shall be called by the Moderator at the request of eight trustees. Notice of special meetings shall be given in writing not less than five nor more than sixty days before the meeting and shall state the agenda, time and place of the meeting.

Section 6.12. Waiver of Notice.
695 Notice of a meeting need not be given to any trustee who submits a signed waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protest, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice.

Section 6.13. Quorum.
696 A majority plus one of the entire voting membership of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

697 Except for the President, members of the Board of Trustees shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed as determined by the Board of Trustees for the expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

Section 6.15. Annual Report.
698 The Secretary shall on behalf of the Board of Trustees present an annual report of its activities to the member congregations and each regular General Assembly.

ARTICLE VII

Committees of the Board of Trustees

Section 7.1. Committees of the Board of Trustees.
699 The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:
700 (a) the Executive Committee;
701 (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;
702 (c) the Finance Committee;
703 (d) the Investment Committee;
704 (e) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and
705 (f) the Audit Committee.

Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.
706 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 7.3. Removal of Committee Member.
707 Standing committee members appointed by the Board of Trustees shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by it at any time.

Section 7.4. Vacancies.
708 A vacancy on any committee of the Board among members appointed by the Board of Trustees shall be filled by it.

Section 7.5. Executive Committee.
709 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the First Vice Moderator, the Secretary, the Financial Advisor, and the Chair of the Finance Committee. The position on the committee occupied by the First Vice Moderator shall be filled by the Second Vice Moderator at any meeting of the committee from which the First Vice Moderator is absent or at which the First Vice Moderator is presiding in the absence of the Moderator. The position on the committee occupied by the Secretary shall be filled by the Assistant Secretary at any meeting of the committee from which the Secretary is absent. The Executive Committee shall conduct the current and ordinary business of the Association between meetings of the Board of Trustees. If between meetings of the Board of Trustees, matters arise which (1) in the opinion of the Executive Committee are not current and ordinary business but in the best interests of the Association must nevertheless be acted upon, or (2) the Executive Committee has been authorized by the Board to be acted upon, then the Executive Committee may act thereon for the Board of Trustees, but only if four or more members vote the action.

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.
710 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of fourteen members as follows:
711 (a) six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
712 (b) six members who are ministers in final fellowship with the Association, with at least one from each category of ministry including community ministry, appointed by the Board; and
Section 7.7. Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees who shall not be members of the Investment Committee, 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 consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five other persons, at least one of whom shall be a trustee and none of whom shall be members of the Finance Committee. The duties of the Investment Committee are set forth in Article X.

Section 7.9. Additional Committees.

The Board of Trustees may appoint additional committees to serve at its pleasure and shall determine the membership, qualifications, and duties thereof.

Section 7.10. Presiding Officer.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint one member of each standing committee of the Board to be its presiding officer.

Section 7.11. Time and Place of Meetings.

Each standing committee of the Board shall hold meetings at such times and places as it may determine.

Section 7.12. Call and Notice of Meetings.

Meetings of standing committees of the Board may be called by the presiding officer and shall be called by the presiding officer at the request of a majority of the members of the entire committee. Unless the Board of Trustees otherwise provides, notice of meetings of each standing committee shall be given in such a manner and within such time as the standing committee determines.

Section 7.13. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall consist of seven 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;

(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.

ARTICLE VIII Officers of the Association

Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.

Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, a President, and a Financial Advisor.

Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers of the Association shall include one or more Vice Moderators, a Secretary, and a Recording Secretary and may include such other officers as the Board of Trustees may appoint.

Appointed Salaried Officers. The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include one or more vice presidents, assistant treasurers, and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may determine.

Section C-8.2. Control by Board of Trustees.

All officers shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Trustees. All appointed officers shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and shall serve at its pleasure.

Section 8.3. Term of Office.

(a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.

(1) President. The President shall serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

(2) Moderator and Financial Advisor. The Moderator and Financial Advisor shall each serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator or Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive full terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

(b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 8.4. Qualification of Officers.

Each officer of the Association shall be a member of a member congregation. If an officer ceases to be a member of any member congregation, such officer shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant.

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Section 8.5. Removal of Officers.

(a) Elected Officers. An elected officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the entire Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board is present if in the opinion of the Board such officer is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office. The President may also be removed by such a vote of the Board if it determines that such removal is in the best interests of the Association.

(b) Appointed Officers. An appointed officer may be removed by the Board of Trustees at any time.

Section 8.6. Resignation.

An officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Moderator, who shall immediately forward copies to the Board of Trustees. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then upon delivery.

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 the Board of Trustees until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

(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 8.8. Moderator.

The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings and shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association. The Moderator shall serve as Chief Governance Officer of the Association.

Section 8.9. President.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be a member, ex-officio, without vote, of all standing committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee and the Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

Section 8.10. Financial Advisor.

The duties of the Financial Advisor are set forth in Article X.

Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.

In the event an Executive Vice President should be appointed, the Board of Trustees shall describe his or her duties.

Section 8.12. Vice Moderators.

The Vice Moderator or Moderators shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Trustees and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees or as assigned by the President in conformity with any provisions of the Board appointment.

Section 8.13. Vice Presidents.

Any Vice President appointed shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees or as assigned by the President in conformity with any provisions of the Board appointment.

Section 8.14. Secretary.

The Secretary shall be appointed from among the members of the Board of Trustees and shall perform all duties usually pertaining to the office, except those of a Clerk under Massachusetts law.
Section 9.5. Nomination by Petition.

(a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election shall 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. If no valid and timely nomination is made by certified member congregations, the Board of Trustees shall nominate one or more candidates for the office.

(b) For Other Elective Positions at Large. A nomination for any other elective position at large or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by no 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.

Nominations for youth trustee at large shall be so designated.

Section 9.6. Qualifications of Nominees.

Each person nominated for an elective position at large or to fill a vacancy occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 6.8(b), shall be from a member congregation. No person shall be nominated to serve or are disqualified after the time has expired for making nomination which is acceptable. In the absence of a timely selection, all such nominations shall be void and the person shall be so notified in writing by the Secretary.

Section 9.7. Vacancy in Nominations.

If all persons nominated for an elective position at large die, decline to serve or are disqualified after the time has expired for making any further nominations, or if no valid and timely nomination is made, the position shall be filled after the final adjournment of the regular General Assembly at which the election would have been held in the same manner as if the position had been filled by election and had then become vacant.

Section 9.8. Supervision of Elections.

The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at large. The Secretary may appoint a committee of tellers to count ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall decide any question arising during such an election concerning: (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to election procedures; (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the Rules; or (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

The Secretary's decision shall be final. The Secretary shall remain impartial and shall not act in engagement. Except for advocacy of his or her own candidacy for offices for which he or she is nominated.

Section 9.9. Conduct of Elections at Large.

(a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written 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 by mail. Absentee ballots shall be received at the Secretary not less than seven calendar days before the General Assembly in order to be counted.

Section 9.10. Counting of Ballots.

(a) For President. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for President, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected. In the absence of valid district bylaw provisions, the trustee representing that district or group of districts shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of the Association.

(b) For Other Elective Positions at Large. If there is one elective position at large 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 candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected. If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected.

Section 9.11. Nominations and Elections of Trustees Representing Districts.

(a) District Bylaws. Each district shall in its bylaws set forth the method by which the certified member congregations of the Association within that district shall nominate and elect a trustee. Where two or more districts are required to share a single trustee, each such district shall adopt compatible bylaw provisions. In the absence of valid district bylaw provisions, the trustee representing that district or group of districts shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of the Association.

(b) Time of Election. The election of a district trustee, except an election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 6.8(b), shall be held not less than 45 nor more than 300 days before the regular General Assembly following which such trustee is to take office.

(c) Method of Nominations. The district bylaws shall provide that nominations may be made by a specific number of certified member congregations.

(d) Method of Election. If a district's bylaws do not include a provision for the election of the trustee representing that district or the group of districts of which that district is a part, the trustee for that district or the group of districts of which that district is a part shall be elected using one of the following methods:

(1) at large within the district, with each member of a certified member congregation casting a ballot by mail;

(2) by delegates at a district meeting at which each certified member congregation is entitled to the same number of voting delegates as specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, with absentee ballots by the delegates permitted;

(3) by each certified member congregation, acting at a legal meeting of such congregation, casting that
number of votes equal to the number of delegates specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, allocated among the candidates as it shall determine;

(4) by delegates at a district meeting at which each certified member congregation is entitled to the same number and kind of voting delegates as specified in Section 4.8(a) and (b) of these Bylaws with absentee ballots by the delegates permitted; or

(5) by each certified member congregation, acting at a legal meeting of such congregation, casting that number of votes equal to the number of delegates specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, with the votes of the congregation allocated among the candidates as it shall determine and by each minister and Director of Religious Education, who meets the criteria for delegate status set forth in Section 4.8(b) of these Bylaws, casting a vote.


1377 Rules relating to nomination and election procedures shall be adopted by a General Assembly. Such rules shall be applicable to elections held after the close of the General Assembly at which they are adopted.

**ARTICLE X Finance and Contracts**

*Section 10.1. Annual Budget.*

The annual budget of the Association shall be adopted and may subsequently be amended by the Board of Trustees. A budget or 1388 budgets for the coming year or years shall be presented to each regular General Assembly for its consideration and such recommendation of financial priorities as the General Assembly may wish to make.

Section 10.2. Duties of Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall submit proposed annual budgets for the Association to the Board of Trustees and make recommendations to the Board with respect to major financial policies of the Association other than those pertaining to investments. It shall review the use made of specific funds held by the Association and shall also recommend long-range financial plans.

Section 10.3. Duties of Financial Advisor.

The Financial Advisor shall advise the President and the Board of Trustees on financial policy and shall assist the Board in long-range planning by reviewing the sources of funds, the application of funds designated for specific purposes, the balance between foreseeable income and proposed expenditures, and the overall financial welfare of the Association. From time to time the Financial Advisor shall report to the President and the Board findings and recommendations respecting the current financial affairs of the Association and long-range planning.

Section 10.4. Duties of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers.

The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate seal and the funds and other properties of the Association and shall have the usual duties of the Treasurer of a corporation. The Treasurer or the Board of Trustees may from time to time delegate or assign to each Assistant Treasurer specified duties and authority; and any person, firm, organization or corporation dealing with the Treasurer, including the execution, sealing and delivery of any document, has been performed pursuant to an effective delegation or assignment of authority as aforesaid, and the Association shall be bound accordingly.

Section 10.5. Raising of Funds.

The Association shall raise capital and operating funds to carry out its purposes. It may also raise capital and operating funds for associate member organizations and independent affiliate organizations.

Section 10.6. Funds Held for Others.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Association may hold for investment and distribution funds belonging to or given for the benefit of a member congregation, associate member organization, independent affiliate organization, or other 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 10.7. Responsibility for Investments.

(a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate responsibility for investing the funds belonging to or held by the Association.

(b) Investment Committee. The Investment Committee shall supervise the investments of the Association subject to control by the Board of Trustees.

Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.

The President, Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer may sign and attest deeds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents to which the Association is a party.

Section 10.9. Pension System.

The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for ministers in full fellowship with the Association.

Section 10.10. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 10.11. Corporate Seal.

The seal of the Association shall be in such form as the Board of Trustees shall approve.

Section 10.12. Indemnification of Trustees, Officers, Employees, and Volunteers.

The Association, to the extent legally permissible, shall indemnify any trustee, officer, employee of the Association or volunteer elected by a General Assembly or appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Association to serve the Association, or persons formerly holding such positions, against all liabilities and expenses (including court costs, attorney’s fees, and the amount of any judgment or reasonable settlement, fines and penalties) actually and necessarily incurred by any such person, subsequent to the adoption hereof, in connection with the defense of any claim asserted or threatened to be asserted against any such person, or any action, suit or proceeding in which any such person may be involved as a party, by reason of being or having been such trustee, officer, employee or volunteer or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken or omitted by any such person as such trustee, officer, employee or volunteer, except with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been adjudicated in any
proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Association provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise payment by such person, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise and indemnification therefore shall be approved:

(a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of disinterested trustees;

(b) if such quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of a committee of the Board of Trustees consisting of all the disinterested trustees;

(c) if there are not two or more disinterested trustees in office, then by a majority of the trustees then in office, provided they have obtained a written finding by independent legal counsel appointed by a majority of the trustees to the effect that, based upon a reasonable investigation of the relevant facts as described such opinion, the person to be indemnified appears to have acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Association;

(d) if not resolved by (a), (b) or (c), above, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

If authorized in the same manner specified above for compromise payments, expenses, including attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred by any such person in connection with the defense or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding may be paid from time to time by the Association in advance of the defense or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding on the same or similar grounds, is then by a majority of the trustees then in office.

The right of which undertaking may be accepted without reference to the provision. As used in this Section, an "interested" trustee or officer means any statute, bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise or to any person who has previously served as a trustee, [or]

Each member congregation has the exclusive right to call and retain a minister or to resign from fellowship with the Association. Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish, religious education and/or community ministry as determined by action of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. No minister shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed, belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold fellowship.

*Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.*

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship except as otherwise provided herein. It shall make rules governing ministerial fellowship, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

*Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.*

A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules of the committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to preliminary fellowship for a probationary period of three years, and may thereafter be admitted to final fellowship.

*Section 11.4. Classes of Ministerial Fellowship.*

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall adopt rules related to classes of ministerial fellowship which shall include full and associate fellowship.

(a) Ministers in full fellowship are those admitted to fellowship who are:

(1) engaged in full-time active ministerial service;

(2) actively seeking positions in such service and have recently served; and

(3) retired from such service by reason of advanced age or illness.

(b) Ministers in associate fellowship are those in fellowship who are not currently in full fellowship.

*Section 11.5. Fellowship Records.*

The Executive Secretary of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all ministers in fellowship with the Association. Such records shall be available only to members of the committee, persons designated by the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

*Section 11.6. Suspension or Termination of Fellowship.*

The fellowship of a minister may be suspended or terminated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct or other specified cause. Final fellowship may be suspended or terminated only after notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Committee at which the minister shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to introduce evidence, to have any relevant material evidence in the possession of the Association produced, and to cross-examine and rebut adverse evidence.

*Section 11.7. Reinstatement in Fellowship.*

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may reinstate in or readmit to fellowship a minister who has previously resigned from fellowship or whose fellowship has been suspended or terminated.

*Section 11.8. Appeal.*

A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is terminated may appeal the determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the Board of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

*Section 11.9. Procedure on Appeal.*

An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the Board selected as provided in its rules. The panel hearing an appeal shall not try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the introduction of newly discovered evidence. These Bylaws, the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall be binding upon the panel. The panel shall uphold the decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing Committee if it can be sustained by a reasonable view of the
ARTICLE XII Religious Education Credentialing

Section 12.1. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
Each member congregation has the exclusive right to employ its own religious educator, but the Association has the exclusive right to confer on religious educators a religious education credentialing status with the Association. No religious educator shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed, belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold religious education credentialing status.

Section 12.2. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over religious education credentialing except as otherwise provided herein. It shall make rules governing religious education credentialing, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 12.3. Achievement of Religious Education Credentialing Status.
A religious educator may achieve a religious education credentialing status by action of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules of the committee.

Section 12.4. Religious Education Credentialing Levels.
The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall adopt rules related to levels of religious education credentialing as follows: religious education credentialing includes credentialing religious educator-associate level status, credentialing religious educator status, and credentialing religious educator-masters level status as determined by action of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

Section 12.5. Religious Education Credentialing Records.
The Executive Secretary of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all religious educators who have achieved a status as a religious educator as described in Section 12.4 of these bylaws. Such records shall be available only to members of the committee, persons designated by the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

Section 12.6. Suspension or Termination of Religious Education Credentialing Status.
The religious education credentialing status of a religious educator may be suspended or terminated by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for unbecoming conduct or other specified cause. Credentialing status may be suspended or terminated only after notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Committee at which the religious educator shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to introduce evidence, to have any relevant and material evidence in the possession of the Association produced, and to cross-examine and rebut adverse evidence.

Section 12.7. Reinstatement of Religious Education Credentialing Status.
The Religious Education Credentialing Committee may reinstate a religious educator who has previously resigned from religious education credentialing status or whose religious education credentialing status has lapsed, been suspended or terminated.

Section 12.8. Appeal.
A religious educator with a religious education credentialing status whose status is terminated may appeal the determination of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

Section 12.9. Procedure on Appeal.
An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the Board selected as provided in its rules. The panel hearing an appeal shall not try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the introduction of newly discovered evidence. These Bylaws and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall be binding upon the panel. The panel shall uphold the decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee if it can be sustained by a reasonable view of the record. The panel may set aside the decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The panel may remand the case in whole or part to the Religious Education Credentialing Committee or take such other action as may be just. The decision of the panel, which shall be the decision of the Board, shall set forth its finding and conclusions and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XIII Regional Organizations

Section C-13.1. Districts.
The Association shall support areas of regional responsibility known as districts.

*Section C-13.2. Establishment.
The establishment of districts and the manner of determining which congregations are included in each district shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

Section C-13.3. Members.
All member congregations of the Association located within each district shall be entitled to be member congregations of that district.

Section C-13.4. Autonomy.
Each district shall be autonomous and 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.

Section C-13.5. District Bylaws.
Each district shall adopt bylaws which are not in conflict with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV Rules

Section 14.1. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by General Assemblies.
A General Assembly may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these Bylaws. Adoption or amendment of Rules by a General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. Each Rule adopted by a General Assembly shall be identified by a “G” preceding its Rule number.

A General Assembly may amend or repeal Rules adopted by prior General Assemblies or by the Board of Trustees, if the proposed Rules or amendments have been placed on the agenda. Rules and amendments thereto shall be submitted for inclusion on the agenda in the same manner as other resolutions. The provisions UUA Bylaws: 14
Section 14.2. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these Bylaws and Rules adopted by General Assemblies and may amend or repeal its Rules.

Section 14.3. Rules of Order.

The Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any Rules that may be adopted hereunder.

ARTICLE XV Amendment

Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.

(a) These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has been placed on the agenda; provided, however, that proposals to amend or repeal a section of these Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a “C” (hereinafter a “C Bylaw”), or to add a new such section, shall be governed by subsections (b) or (c) hereof.

(b) (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process. Such proposals must be placed on the agenda of a regular General Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at such regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

(2) The text of a proposed amendment to a C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II, which has been approved by one General Assembly, may be amended at any time prior to final adoption. If the Moderator rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive, final adoption shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. Any such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at three successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to substantive amendment at the third such regular General Assembly.

(3) A proposal to amend a C Bylaw, other than those Bylaws in Article II, which on any vote for final adoption receives a majority but not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly, at which it may be finally adopted if it receives the requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds vote at the third regular General Assembly at which it is considered for final approval, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two years.

(c) (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly for the sole purpose of determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for review and study. Such a review shall involve member congregations. A majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the study commission. Once the review and study of the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more than three years, the study commission shall submit to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly following completion of the review and study process the proposal in the form originally presented to the regular General Assembly and any amendments to the proposal that the study commission recommends as a result of the review and study process. All proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws that are placed on the agenda after review and study (including amendments to such proposals recommended by the study commission) shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the review and study process, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two years.

(2) A motion to dispense with the review and study process with respect to a proposal to amend Article II shall be in order at the General Assembly at which the review and study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with the review and study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage.

(3) After completion of the review and study process, proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws shall not be subject to substantive amendment. The Moderator shall determine whether an amendment to such a proposal is substantive.

(4) If no review and study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to review and study Article II and to recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II which are promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval process. Such proposals must be approved preliminarily by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

(a) the Board of Trustees;
(b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
(c) the Commission on Appraisal;
(d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; such proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the Planning Committee on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the General Assembly; or
(e) a district by official action at a duly called district meeting at which a quorum is present, such proposed amendment to be received by the Planning Committee on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.

RULES* of the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

UUA Bylaws: 15
Rule 3.3.4. Multiple Local Congregations.

In many communities the liberal religious movement may be better served by the establishment of two or more member congregations.

(a) It is ordinarily desirable that a new congregation should have the active support and sponsorship of any member congregation or congregations located in the same geographic area.

(b) The Association will neither initiate nor recognize such a new congregation until after the Association has consulted by mail or by interview with any member congregation or congregations located in the same geographic area. Such consultation shall include a request for letters from the presiding officer of the congregation's governing board and minister of such congregation(s) stating judgment regarding the establishment and/or recognition of the new congregation. The Association may proceed to assist in organizing or recognizing the new congregation despite local protest or objection if the Association believes that such action is in the best interests of the entire movement and that it will strengthen the total Unitarian Universalist position in the community.

Rule 3.3.5. Rules and Regulations for New Congregations.

It is essential that Unitarian Universalist congregations be affirmative in spirit, inclusive in fellowship, and mutually supportive in their relationships with other congregations. The following statements represent the Association's best judgment as to the meaning of this general statement and shall be used by staff and the Board in determining action upon applications for membership.

(a) In receiving the application of a new congregation for membership in the Association, the Congregational Services staff shall satisfy itself that the group is making its application in good faith and that it will make a sincere effort to carry out the purposes of the Association. (See specifically Article II of the Bylaws.)

(b) The Association interprets its statements of purpose to mean that no congregation may be accepted into membership if its bylaws exclude from its local membership any person because of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin.

(c) All member congregations must be congregational in polity; the final authority to make decisions must be vested in the legal membership of the congregation.

(d) Member congregations shall project and embark upon a balanced program of religious activity including adult worship and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of a church school in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

(e) New congregations are expected to establish and maintain cooperative relations with Unitarian Universalist agencies, as appropriate and feasible.

(f) A congregation should be incorporated when possible under the laws of the state in which it exists. A congregation shall include in its articles of incorporation or other organizing documents a clause providing that the assets of the congregation will be transferred upon dissolution to the Association. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a congregation gains the prior written consent of the Association's Board of Trustees, the congregation may name an organization that is affiliated with the Association (such as a district, camp, conference center or other congregation) as the recipient of the congregation’s assets upon dissolution.

Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.

The order of administrative procedure:

- Implementing this rule shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Board shall designate a specific person or committee to whom comments about adherence to this rule may be addressed. The Board shall report to the General Assembly annually for the next three years on its implementation.
2009 Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.


2011 In each fiscal year of the Association (July 1 to June 30), each member congregation shall file with the Secretary of the 2012 Association an Annual Report on the form and in the manner 2013 provided by the Association. The Annual Report shall include a 2014 certification by a minister or principal officer of the member 2015 congregation stating (a) whether or not the member congregation 2016 complied with the conditions set forth in Section C-3.5 of the 2017 Bylaws during the Association’s prior fiscal year and (b) that the 2018 information provided to the Association in the Annual Report is true 2019 and correct to the best of the minister’s or principal officer’s 2020 knowledge.

2021 For purposes of determining compliance with Section C-3.5 of the 2022 Bylaws, a member congregation shall be deemed to have 2023 conducted ‘regular religious services’ if it has held at least 10 2024 services during the fiscal year.

2025 A member congregation’s Annual Report for a particular fiscal year 2026 and, if submitted separately, the related certification must be 2027 received by the Association on or before February 1 following the 2028 close of that fiscal year whenever the regular General Assembly 2029 opens in June and otherwise on or before the close of business on 2030 the last business day which is at least 110 days before the date of 2031 the General Assembly next following the close of that fiscal year. If 2032 a member congregation’s related certification is not received by the 2033 applicable deadline, it will still be deemed timely filed if the member 2034 congregation submits to the Association proof that it was mailed in 2035 accordance with the provisions of Rule G-13.4.2. Such proof may 2036 be in the form of a stamped or validated receipt for Registered or 2037 Certified Mail or a sworn statement attesting to the proper 2038 submission of the certification signed by the person responsible for 2039 its mailing.

2040 Rule 3.5.2. Inactive Congregations

2041 In September of each year the Congregational Services Director 2042 shall initiate the process of contacting congregations in the inactive 2043 category to determine their status.

2044 This process includes:

2046 (a) requesting a list of congregations that have failed to submit 2047 an annual report for three consecutive fiscal years

2048 (b) forwarding this list to the UUA’s District Staff with copies to 2049 District Presidents and District Trustees for their information

2050 (c) upon receipt of the annual inactive congregations list and 2051 pursuant to the UUA’s by-laws section C-3.6, the UUA’s 2052 District staff shall follow up with any congregation in their district

2053 (d) after follow up the District staff shall make a recommendation 2054 about each congregation’s status to the UUA Board for action 2055 at its April meeting.

2057 Section C-3.7. Associate Member Organizations.

2058 Rule 3.7.1. Limitation of Associate Membership.

2059 It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees to limit admissions to 2060 associate membership to major continent-wide organizations.

2061 Rule 3.7.2. Non-Segregation.

2062 Each associate member organization shall in all aspects of its work 2063 refrain from the practice of segregation based on race, ethnicity, 2064 gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language, 2065 citizenship status, economic status, or national origin. This 2066 rule is not intended to preclude associate member 2067 organizations designed to benefit groups organized 2068 to ensure their fuller participation in the larger society and to fulfill 2069 their unique spiritual needs.

2070 Rule 3.7.3. Application for Associate Membership.

2071 Each applicant for membership shall submit with its application:

2072 (a) an attested copy of its charter and, unless it is included in 2073 the charter, an attested copy of its purposes, objectives, and 2074 bylaws;

2075 (b) the approximate number of members in the organization;

2076 (c) a list of principal officers with their personal mail addresses 2077 and the principal mail address of the organization;

2078 (d) a financial statement showing income and expenses for the 2079 latest fiscal year preceding the date of filing and showing assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of such fiscal 2080 year;

2082 (e) the dates upon which its governing board met during the 2083 twelve months immediately preceding the date of filing;

2084 (f) any yearly reports of its governing body and its principal 2085 officers sent to members during the twelve months 2086 immediately preceding the date of filing;

2087 (g) evidence that it enjoys tax exempt status:

2088 (1) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue 2089 Code of 1954;

2090 (2) as a registered charity as provided for in the Income 2091 Tax Act (Canada); or

2092 (3) under the laws of the country governing the applicant’s 2093 tax status;

2094 (h) if the applicant does not enjoy tax exempt status, the reason 2095 or reasons it does not:

2096 (i) a statement outlining the intended use of associate 2097 membership, if granted, and the goals and objectives of the 2098 organization that will be served by such use;

2099 (j) a statement outlining what advantage it is believed there 2100 would be to the Association and to the furtherance of the 2101 principles of the Association outlined in Bylaw Section C- 2102 2.2; and

2103 (k) any other information which the Board of Trustees of the 2104 Association shall require.

2105 (l) The contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10.


2017 Except in the year when it is admitted to membership, each 2018 associate member shall send to the Association on or before April 2019 30 (i) an annual report which shall include the data required by 2110 subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Rule 3.7.3 and any other 2111 information which the Board of Trustees shall require and (ii) the 2112 contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10. If an associate member 2113 fails to comply with the provisions of this Rule, the Board of 2114 Trustees shall at its next regular meeting consider a finding of non- 2115 compliance and the termination of the associate membership 2116 status of such organization.

Each associate member shall send the Association an attested copy of any changes in its charter, purposes, objectives, or bylaws as soon as any such changes are made, and shall notify the Association immediately of any change in its tax exempt status.

Rule 3.7.6. Representation of Associate Membership.

No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an associate member of the Association until such membership is voted by the Board of Trustees; and if and when any organization's associate membership expires or it is terminated, that organization shall immediately cease to claim, represent or imply in any manner that it is an associate member of the Association.

Rule 3.7.7. Mailing List.

Each associated member shall place the Association on its regular mailing list.


Before granting associate membership, the Board of Trustees shall determine that the granting of such associate membership is likely to be of substantial benefit to the Unitarian Universalist movement.

Rule 3.7.9. Yearly Grant of Associate Membership.

Associate membership for all new or existing associate members shall be granted by the Board of Trustees for a designated one year period or portion thereof.

Rule 3.7.10. Associate Member Contributions.

The contribution required to be submitted with an application for associate membership is $500 for any applicant whose budget for the 12 months preceding its application for associate membership was less than $1,000,000. The contribution required for the 12 months preceding the due date of the annual report was $1,000,000 or more and $250 for any associate member whose budget for the 12 months preceding the due date of the annual report was $1,000,000 or less.


Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.

Rule 3.8.2. Non-Segregation.

Each independent affiliate organization shall in all aspects of its work refrain from the practice of segregation based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin.

This rule is not intended to preclude independent affiliate organizations designed to benefit groups organized to ensure their spiritual needs.

Rule 3.8.3. Annual Contribution and Report.

Except in the year when it is admitted to independent affiliate status, each independent affiliate organization shall send the Association on or before April 30 (i) an annual report which shall include the data required by subsections (b), (c), (f), (g) and (h) of Rule 3.8.1 and any other information which the Board of Trustees shall require and (ii) the contribution contemplated by Rule 3.8.9. If an independent affiliate organization fails to comply with the provisions of this Rule, the Board of Trustees shall at its next regular meeting consider a finding of non-compliance and the termination of the independent affiliate status of such organization.


Each independent affiliate organization shall send the Association an attested copy of any changes in its charter, purposes, objectives, or bylaws as soon as any such changes are made and shall notify the Association immediately of any change in its tax exempt status.

Rule 3.8.5. Representation of Independent Affiliate Status.

No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an independent affiliate with the Association until such status is voted by the Board of Trustees; and if and when any organization's independent affiliate status expires or it is terminated, that organization shall immediately cease to claim, represent or imply in any manner that it is affiliated with the Association.

Rule 3.8.6. Mailing List.

Each independent affiliate organization shall place the Association on its regular mailing list.

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Before granting independent affiliate status, the Board of Trustees shall determine that such affiliation is likely to be of substantial benefit to the Unitarian Universalist movement.


Independent affiliate status for all new or existing independent affiliate organizations shall be granted by the Board of Trustees for a designated one year period or portion thereof.


The contribution required to be submitted with an application for independent affiliate status and with an independent affiliate's annual report is $100.

Rule 4.6.1. Mailing of Notice.

Notice of each regular and special General Assembly shall be given not less than sixty days before the date thereof to each certified member congregation, associate member organization, and trustee. Such notice shall be given by the Secretary or the Recording Secretary.

Rule 4.6.2. Time of Notice.

Notice so sent shall be sufficient if mailed at Boston, Massachusetts, sixty days before any such General Assembly, addressed to the persons who according to the records of the Association are entitled thereto hereunder and sent to the addresses which appear on said records. When the Secretary in his or her absolute discretion finds it desirable and practicable, a copy of the notice shall be inserted in the denomination's publication most widely circulated within the denomination in the issue which will be circulated as nearly sixty days before the General Assembly as possible.

Rule 4.6.3. Content of Notice.

Such notice shall contain the date, time, and place where the General Assembly is to be held and shall state only that the business to be transacted will be set forth in the official agenda issued in accordance with the Bylaws. Such agenda need not accompany the notice. The original of such notice shall be signed by the Secretary or Recording Secretary and be made a part of the minutes of the General Assembly to which it pertains. The signature of the Secretary or Recording Secretary on copies of any such notice may be printed or typewritten.

Section C-4.7. Voting.

Rule G-4.9.1. Number of Delegates.

The Secretary of the Association shall, consistent with the Bylaws, determine the number of delegates to which a certified member congregation, associate member organization, or a congregation as ministry, and (4) is compensated for community ministry work which constitutes fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule recognized by the congregation as ministry. A minister emeritus/a shall be entitled to the number of accredited community minister delegates equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled under Bylaw Section 4.8(a). A minister emeritus/a shall previously have settled into such congregation as described in this Rule. A certified member congregation shall certify in writing that its minister delegates meet the criteria for minister in accordance with this Rule.

Rule G-4.9.3. Mailing of Credential Cards.

The Secretary of the Association shall send to each certified member congregation and associate member organization entitled to be represented by delegates the proper number of delegate credentials. The Secretary shall also furnish trustees with credentials. The Secretary shall also furnish trustees with the certificate of accreditation. The application shall be in writing on a form prescribed by Rule 3.5.1, including a pledge of continuing relationship and support and a determination of the Secretary may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.

Rule G-4.9.4. Issuance of Duplicate Credential Card.

If a person who has been duly constituted a delegate arrives at a General Assembly without a properly executed accrediting card, the person may apply to the Secretary of the Association, or to one or more persons designated by the Secretary, for a special certificate of accreditation. The application shall be in writing on a form provided by the Secretary of the Association. It shall be signed by the applicant under the penalties of perjury. The certificate shall contain at least the following:

(a) the name of the congregation or associate member organization involved;
(b) in the case of a delegate representing a member congregation other than a settled minister or emerita/us minister or an accredited director of religious education, a statement that the applicant is a member of that congregation; or in the case of a delegate representing an associate member organization, a statement that the applicant is a member of a certified member congregation;
(c) a statement that the person was designated as a delegate under established procedures of the congregation or is a settled minister or emerita/us minister thereof or is an accredited director of religious education employed in the congregation, or was designated as a delegate of an associate member organization; and
(d) a brief statement as to why the applicant is not able to present an official and properly executed accrediting card.

Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

The Secretary of the Association shall, consistent with the Bylaws, determine the number of delegates to which each certified member congregation and associate member organization is entitled. The determinations of the Secretary may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.

Rule 4.9.1A. Merged, Consolidated, or Dissolved Congregations.

In the event a certified member congregation dissolves or merges or consolidates with another congregation subsequent to its filing, the certified member certification form prescribed by Rule 3.5.1, any delegate credentials outstanding on the date of dissolution or merger or consolidation are thereby rendered null and void. In the event of merger or consolidation, the merged or consolidated certified member congregation shall be entitled during the current fiscal year of the Association to the number of delegate credentials that reflects the total membership of the merged or consolidated congregation or to the number of delegate credentials that the certified member congregations merging or consolidating would have been entitled to but for the merger or consolidation, whichever is less.

Rule 4.9.2. Settled Ministers.

A settled minister for the purpose of accreditation as a delegate pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.8(b) is (a) a minister engaged by a certified member congregation in compensated ministerial activities which constitute fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule or (b) a community minister who (1) maintains active involvement in such congregation, (2) has written agreement with the congregation, (3) receives endorsement from the congregation including a pledge of continuing relationship and support and affirmation that the community minister's work is recognized by the congregation as ministry, and (4) is compensated for community ministry work which constitutes fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule recognized by the congregation as ministry.
Rule 4.9.5. Alternate Delegates.
Each certified member congregation may, in accordance with its own Bylaws or procedures, designate alternate delegates to any General Assembly in such number, not in excess of the number of delegates to which it is entitled, as it may determine. Alternate delegates shall be members of the certified member congregation they represent. All alternates appointed must be provided by the member congregation with a certification of their appointment signed by an officer of the congregation.

Rule G-4.9.6. Delegate Status.
Delegates and alternates may be designated to attend each General Assembly to be held in any fiscal year of the Association. Delegates and alternates may be designated to attend each General Assembly in such number, not in excess of the number of congregations the congregation shall determine.

In order to be issued credentials admitting the alternate as a delegate to the General Assembly, the alternate must present such certification and credential card and delegate badge of the delegate for whom such person is serving as alternate.

Rule G-4.9.8. Payment of Registration Fee.
All delegates, alternates and trustees must pay a registration fee in order to be admitted to the floor and vote at the General Assembly.

Rule 4.9.9. Amount of Fees.
The registration fee shall be set by the Board of Trustees.


The Commission on Social Witness shall report to the General Assembly in summary fashion those comments on UUA (U.S. or Continental) Statements of Conscience submitted to it by member congregations and districts.

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.

The UUA Administration shall report at each regular General Assembly regarding implementation of UUA Statements of Conscience with particular reference to the most recently adopted Statement of Conscience. Such report shall summarize implementation by member congregations, Districts, UUA staff and Unitarian Universalist groups.

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 and consider amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies.

The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers practical to advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of any actions or resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the Final Agenda and which are admitted to the agenda pursuant to Article IV, Section 4.16 of the Bylaws; and some time shall be scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the action(s) or resolution(s) can discuss the action or resolution with those interested.

Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.

Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and Districts.
The General Assembly Planning Committee shall by November 1通知 to each certified member congregation whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, and not less than two hundred and ten days before each regular General Assembly, notify each certified member congregation and district of the dates for submitting items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be followed, and the forms to be used.

A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice is one that deals with issues of public policy within the province of the Department of Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

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
2484 number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one
2485 eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business
2486 Resolutions eligible from the Congregational Poll, the Planning
2487 Committee shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the
2488 eight Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of
2489 "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Poll. The
2490 Planning Committee may also include on the Final Agenda
2491 alternative versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to
2492 those selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle
2493 year, the Planning Committee also shall include on the Final
2494 Agenda not more than the five proposed Congregational
2495 Study/Action Issues receiving a majority of votes and the highest
2496 number of "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational
2497 Directives for General Assembly Action, provided that at least
2498 twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the
2499 ballot vote for such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.
2500 If the number of proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues
2501 recommended for action in the Congregational Poll exceeds five
2502 and there is more than one such issue in fifth position as a result of
2503 a tie vote, all issues in fifth position shall be referred
2504 to the Final Agenda by the Commission on Social Witness. In the
2505 fourth Cycle year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to
2506 Section 4.12(d)(2), the Planning Committee shall further include on
2507 the Final Agenda a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience,
2508 provided that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the
2509 congregations participated in the ballot vote for such draft UUA
2510 Statement of Conscience. A report of the vote by which each
2511 resolution on the Tentative Agenda was or was not "recommended
2512 for action" shall be included on the Final Agenda. All Business
2513 Resolutions that are included on the Final Agenda shall be
2514 discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-assembly.
2515 Rule 4.18.4. Matters Submitted by Districts
2516 In the event that a proposed amendment to a Rule or to a Business
2517 Resolution that was submitted by a district is to be considered at a
2518 General Assembly, the district that submitted the proposed
2519 amendment or resolution may, in accordance with its own
2520 procedures, designate a representative to speak in support of the
2521 amendment or resolution at the General Assembly. The
2522 representative must be provided by the district with a certification of
2523 the representative's appointment signed by an officer of the district.
2526 The General Assembly Planning Committee shall offer rules of
2527 procedure for adoption at the first session of each General
2528 Assembly.
2529 RULE V Committees of the Association
2530 No existing rules applicable to Article V.
2531 RULE VI Board of Trustees
2532 Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.
2533 Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes.
2534 The Trustees representing districts are divided into the following
2535 two groups:
2536 GROUP A       GROUP B
2537 Clara Barton   Ballou Channing
2538 Florida       Central Midwest
2539 Mid-South     Heartland
2540 Mountain Desert        Joseph Priestley
2541 Northeast      Massachusetts Bay
2542 Ohio Meadville       Metropolitan New York
2543 Pacific Northwest  New Hampshire - Vermont
2544 Pacific Southwest  Pacific Central
2545 Southwest       Prairie Star
2546 St. Lawrence    Thomas Jefferson
2547 Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.
2548 Rule 6.6.1. Multiple Memberships.
2549 For purposes of applying the Bylaw provision that no more than
2550 one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation,
2551 a person holding membership in more than one member
2552 congregation shall be treated as being a member only of that
2553 member congregation whose services such person most regularly
2554 attends. The Secretary shall make any determinations required by
2555 this rule, subject to appeal to the Board of Trustees, with the
2556 affected trustee or trustees not voting.
2557 Rule 6.6.2. Implementation of Section 6.6.
2558 If at the close of a General Assembly election, the results are such
2559 that, except for the provisions of Section 6.6, more than one person
2560 from the same congregation would serve at the same time on the
2561 Board of Trustees,
2562 (a) if the conflict arises solely from the election just held
2563 the Secretary of the Association shall thereupon declare that the
2564 persons so elected are disqualified and that the offices to
2565 which they have been so elected are vacant and are to be
2566 filled as provided in the Bylaws.
2567 (b) if the conflict arises because one person from a
2568 congregation is already serving on the Board of Trustees
2569 and another person from that congregation has just been so
2570 elected the Secretary of the Association shall declare that
2571 the person just elected is disqualified and the office to which
2572 such person has been elected is vacant and that the
2573 vacancy is to be filled as provided in the Bylaws.
2574 RULE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees
2575 No existing rules applicable to Article VII.
2576 RULE VIII Officers of the Association
2577 Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.
2578 Rule 8.1.1. Officers Enumerated.
2579 The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include an
2580 Executive Vice President.
2581 Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.
2582 Rule 8.11.1. Executive Vice President.
2583 The Executive Vice President shall have responsibility under the
2584 President for the administrative affairs of the Association and shall
2585 perform such other duties as may be assigned to such officer.
2586 Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.
2587 Rule 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.
2588 The members serving without pay on the Ministerial Fellowship
2589 Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committees are
2590 designated as officers of the Association for the purposes, only, of
2591 carrying out their duties as members of such committees. The
2592 powers and duties of such members are as defined in the Bylaws,
2593 Rules, and Policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.
2594 RULE IX Nominations and Elections
2595 Section 9.10. Counting of Ballots.
2597 Except in the election of a President, if a tie vote occurs in filling an
2598 office when only one person is to be elected, or occurs in filling a
2599 slate of officers when the slate cannot be completed without
2600 resolving the tie, then as soon as possible before the final
2601 adjournment of the General Assembly involved, additional ballots
2602 shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that
2603 initially the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall
2604 contain only the names of the candidates who are tied. These
2605 ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast
2606 for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the
2607 foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is

UUA Bylaws: 21
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.

If, in the election of a President, in any particular counting of the preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote among 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 by at least a majority of the votes cast.


Each regular General Assembly at which an election is to be held, the Secretary shall prepare ballots upon which shall appear the names of all persons who have been nominated for office in accordance with these Bylaws. One such ballot shall be sent with each credential card issued by the Secretary. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots and the certificate shall be certified by the drawing of lots done by the Secretary and witnessed by two other persons. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.


On all ballots used in elections held by the Association the order of names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the Secretary and witnessed by two other persons. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.


In any election, the use of stickers or the writing in of the name of any person on a ballot shall not be permitted and no vote so received shall be counted.


An 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.


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.


(a) Each candidate for an at-large elective position may submit to the Association a campaign statement or flyer on a paper measuring 8-1/2 by 11 inches. The Association will print and compile a packet made up of the statements of all candidates to be distributed to the congregations with the absentee ballots and to the delegates as a part of the final agenda.

(b) Each candidate for an at-large elective position shall be given an opportunity to address the General Assembly delegates at a time when no other events are scheduled. All candidates for the same position shall be given the same amount of time to speak, in the same meeting as all other candidates for that position.

Rule G-9.12.7. Length of Campaigns for President and Moderator.

(a) Campaigns for President and Moderator may appropriately begin with small campaign committee organizational meetings and mass mailing letters no earlier than November I of the second year preceding the election.

(b) Active campaigning and solicitation of endorsements shall not begin prior to January I of the year preceding these elections.

(c) No electioneering (defined as publicly announced meetings, rallies or exploratory events) of any sort shall occur at the General Assembly two years preceding the elections for President and Moderator. Private meetings about campaign organization that take place outside of General Assembly- booked meeting spaces are permissible.


All candidates for at-large elective positions shall keep detailed and accurate records of:

(a) their campaign expenses (stated in United States dollars) by categories of travel, postage, telephone, printing and other such categories as seem appropriate;

(b) the number of contributors to their campaigns, including the number of contributors in each of the following categories:

1. $50.00 or less
2. $50.00 to $100.00
3. $101.00 to $250.00
4. $251.00 to $500.00
5. over $500.00

(c) the number of contributions and the total amount of contributions received from each group or organization supporting the campaign.

No candidate for any elective position shall solicit or knowingly accept any contribution that is given through a tax-exempt entity without the purpose of conferring tax-exempt status to the contribution to which it would not otherwise be entitled. Such exempt entities shall include but are not limited to member congregations, associate member organizations and independent UUA affiliates.

The names of contributors shall be disclosed. Each such report shall identify by name any member congregation, associate member organization or independent affiliate of the Association and any other tax exempt organization (including specifically, but without limitation to, any minister's discretionary fund or similar account) that has made any contribution to the campaign and shall state the amount of each such contribution. Such reports shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association. A preliminary report shall be due at the close of the first day of the regular General Assembly at which the election occurs. A final report shall be due 60 days thereafter. The Secretary shall upon written request from a member of a member congregation furnish such information from these reports as requested. These reports shall be made available for inspection by any member of a member congregation at the principal offices of the Association and shall be brought by the Secretary to the next General Assembly and made available for inspection there by any delegate.
(a) When running for office, candidates shall be prohibited from engaging in any electioneering or campaigning during the conduct of official business of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
(b) Financial accounting and bookkeeping procedures shall be established which make it explicit that no monies of the Association were used in the financing of a candidate's campaigning or electioneering activities.

(a) An Election Campaign Practices Committee is hereby established and shall consist of three persons to be appointed by the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following those regular General Assemblies at which elections occur. Two members of the Committee shall be members of the Board of Trustees at the time of their appointment and one shall be a non-Board member. The non-Board member shall be the chair of the Committee. Persons appointed to the Election Campaign Practices Committee shall remain neutral in the election and not engage in electioneering. A person nominated pursuant to Bylaw Sections 9.4 or 9.5 is ineligible to serve on the Committee.

(b) The duties of the Election Campaign Practices Committee shall be:
1. to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules to candidates for at-large elective positions not later than thirty days after nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of petition;
2. to receive and consider written complaints of alleged violations of such guidelines or rules; if the committee finds probable cause to establish that a violation exists, to notify a candidate or a number of candidates how they may voluntarily comply with guidelines or rules and how long they have to do so; to attempt to mediate disputes arising from such complaints; and, if no satisfactory resolution of a complaint is achieved, to adjudicate the dispute and report the adjudication in writing to the candidates affected;
3. to hold such hearings as may, at the Committee's discretion, be necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of subsection 2 above; and
4. to report on its activities and any recommendations it may have to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following the elections.

(c) If compliance to an adjudicated decision is not implemented by the stated deadline, the Committee is authorized to block or remove Association-subsidized privileges from the candidate's campaign.

(d) Candidates adjudicated to be in serious violation of Rule G-9.12.6(c) may have their names removed from the ballot. Any such action pursuant to rule G-9.12.10(c) shall be reported to the Board and the General Assembly. Such adjudication by the ECPC would be subject to automatic review by the Board Executive Committee according to the provisions of Rule G-9.12.10(d).

(e) Any candidate aggrieved by the Committee's adjudication may, within ten days of the mailing of the adjudication, appeal in writing to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine such an appeal. The Executive Committee shall report its decision on the appeal in writing to the affected candidates as expeditiously as feasible. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees is authorized to issue any order or ruling it deems appropriate in connection with such a decision.

Rule G-10.1. Presentation of Association Budget.
(a) A budget hearing shall be held as part of the General Assembly program at a time when the Assembly is not in formal business session.
(b) Main motions concerning budgets which are to be made in a formal business session. Any action by a General Assembly with respect to budgets shall be: (1) to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules to candidates for at-large elective positions not later than thirty days after nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of petition; (2) to receive and consider written complaints of alleged violations of such guidelines or rules; if the committee finds probable cause to establish that a violation exists, to notify a candidate or a number of candidates how they may voluntarily comply with guidelines or rules and how long they have to do so; to attempt to mediate disputes arising from such complaints; and, if no satisfactory resolution of a complaint is achieved, to adjudicate the dispute and report the adjudication in writing to the candidates affected; (3) to hold such hearings as may, at the Committee's discretion, be necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of subsection 2 above; and (4) to report on its activities and any recommendations it may have to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following the elections.

Section 10.1. Annual Budget.
Rule G-10.1.1. Presentation of Association Budget.
(a) A budget hearing shall be held as part of the General Assembly program at a time when the Assembly is not in formal business session.
(b) Main motions concerning budgets which are to be made in a formal business session. Any action by a General Assembly with respect to budgets shall be: (1) to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules to candidates for at-large elective positions not later than thirty days after nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of petition; (2) to receive and consider written complaints of alleged violations of such guidelines or rules; if the committee finds probable cause to establish that a violation exists, to notify a candidate or a number of candidates how they may voluntarily comply with guidelines or rules and how long they have to do so; to attempt to mediate disputes arising from such complaints; and, if no satisfactory resolution of a complaint is achieved, to adjudicate the dispute and report the adjudication in writing to the candidates affected; (3) to hold such hearings as may, at the Committee's discretion, be necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of subsection 2 above; and (4) to report on its activities and any recommendations it may have to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following the elections.

Rule G-10.1.2. Expense Categories.
(a) Expense estimates in budgets presented by the Board shall be a minimum of 3% of the total of all unrestricted expense categories, exclusive of the provision for contingencies.

Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income.
(b) Any member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees who is a candidate for UUA elective office shall not participate in any manner in the determination of any appeal from an adjudication of the Election Campaign Practices Committee.

Rule G-10.1.5. Board of Trustees Report.
(a) The duties of the Election Campaign Practices Committee shall be a minimum of 3% of the total of all unrestricted expense categories, exclusive of the provision for contingencies.
Assembly with respect to any budget votes of the preceding General Assembly.

Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.


The Executive Vice President may sign and attest deeds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents to which the Association is a party.

Rule XI Ministry

Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.


The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee are printed separately and are available on request.

Rule XII Regional Organizations

Section C-12.2. Establishment.

Rule G-12.2.1. Establishing Districts.

(a) The districts shall be twenty in number and named Ballou Channing, Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northeast, New Hampshire-Vermont, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwest, and Thomas Jefferson.

(b) Each district shall be composed of the congregations assigned to that district by the Board of Trustees.

(c) The boundaries of each district encompass the areas served by its member congregations.

(d) Upon application to the Board of Trustees and after notice and an opportunity to be heard is afforded the affected districts, a congregation may change its district membership with approval of the Board of Trustees.

(e) The District Map published in the Annual Directory contains boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary lines determined pursuant to subparagraph (c) above and are intended primarily as a guide for the newly admitted congregation in determining its membership.

Rule XIII Rules

Section 13.4. Miscellaneous Rules.


When the last day for the performance of any act required under the Bylaws or Rules falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a day which is a legal holiday in the place where the act is to be performed, the act may be performed on the next succeeding business day.

Rule G-13.4.2. Receipt of Documents.

When any ballot, petition, notice, document, or material of any kind whatsoever is required to be filed with, delivered to, or received by the Association or an officer, board, committee, or agent thereof on or before a certain day, the same shall be considered to have been so filed, delivered, or received only if it is postmarked seven days prior to said certain day or actually received at the office of the Association at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, on an earlier day or not later than 5:00 p.m. on said certain day.
# Results of the 2008 Congregation Poll

Congregations that voted: 776

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congregational Study/Action Issues</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Abstain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSAI - 1 Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSAI - 2 Nuclear Disarmament</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Business Calendar for 2009 General Assembly
Salt Lake City, Utah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 1, 2009</strong></td>
<td>Deadline for congregations to complete the online Annual Certification Form and Congregational Poll (instructions mailed to congregations in November 2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 1, 2009</strong></td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of proposed Business Resolutions and Amendments to Bylaws and Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 1, 2009</strong></td>
<td>Deadline for submitting comments on the draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 1, 2009</strong></td>
<td>Tentative Agenda mailed to certified congregations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 7, 2009</strong></td>
<td>GA Delegate credentials and absentee voting information mailed to certified congregations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 25, 2009</strong></td>
<td>Final Agenda available to congregations at uua.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 27, 2009</strong></td>
<td>UUA Election</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>