**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.

**Thursday at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Room 200 FG**
Proposed Statement of Conscience: Peacemaking

**Thursday at 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Room 101 FG**
Amendment to Rule G-9.12.6: Make candidate information available electronically

Amendments to Bylaw Sections 4.11, 4.12, 4.14, 5.7 and 15.2: Assign responsibility for the General Assembly agenda to the UUA Board

Amendments to Bylaw Section 4.16 and Rules G-4.12.1 and G-4.18.2: Remove “continental” references in the social witness process

Amendment to Rule G-4.12.3(c) to designate email notification for social witness process

**Thursday at 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Room 101 FG**
Business Resolution: General Assembly 2012 in Arizona

**Friday at 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Room 101 FG**
Amendments to Bylaw sections 5.4 and 6.7: Removal of a committee or board member for cause

Amendments to Bylaw sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.7, 8.3, 9.4 and 9.5: Changes to nomination, election, and terms of President and Moderator

**Friday at 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Room M100 CD**
Business Resolution: The Green Revolution in Religion

**Saturday at 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**
Rooms 101 ABC, 101 DE, 101 FG, 101 H, 101 I and 101 J
Actions of Immediate Witness

**Bylaw and Rule Amendments**

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in room 101 FG of the Minneapolis Convention Center on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and Friday at 2:45 p.m. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Planning Committee consolidates results and formulate any amendments to be proposed.

**UUA Statement of Conscience (Peacemaking)**

Discussion of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience takes place in the two-part Mini-Assembly on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in room 200 FG of the Minneapolis Convention Center. Amendments may be introduced only as called for at the Mini-Assembly. The vote to adopt is scheduled for a Plenary Session.

**Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues**

Five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2010 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop on Friday at 1:00 p.m. in room 200 FG of the Minneapolis Convention Center prior to voting in Plenary. One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

**2008 Congregational Study/Action Issue (Ethical Eating)**

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2008 General Assembly. A CSAI Forum will be held Friday at 4:30 p.m. in room 200 FG of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

**Actions of Immediate Witness**

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#518) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the GA Office (Room 102 C in the Minneapolis Convention Center) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken in Plenary Session on Saturday, and Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in the Minneapolis Convention Center in the following rooms: 101 ABC, 101 DE, 101 FG, 101 H, 101 I and 101 J.

**Budget Hearing**

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2010 - 2011 budget Friday at 2:45 p.m. in Room M100 E of the Minneapolis 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 102 C in the Minneapolis Convention Center) by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.
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**UUA General Assembly**  
**June 23-27, 2010**

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Guide for Delegates

Living the Democratic Process

Purpose

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 in the Exhibit Hall. 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 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.

**To Get Your Questions Answered**

**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.”

**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.

**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.
Opening Celebration & Plenary I

Wednesday
8:00 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.
• Call to Order
• Welcome New Congregations
• Review and Adopt Rules of Procedure
• Introduce Youth Caucus and Young Adult Caucus Managers
• Introduce Right Relationships Team
• Recess

Plenary II

Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
If you are a delegate or wish to observe business sessions, please attend this session, where we will explain the business agenda and related mini-assemblys.
• Call to Order
• Chalice Lighting
• Song
• Our Business Agenda and Mini-Assemblies for GA 2010
• Right Relationship Team Report
• Announcements
• Recess

Plenary III

Friday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
• Call to Order
• Chalice Lighting
• Introduce the General Assembly Planning Committee
• Presentation of the GA Service Project
• Preliminary Credentials Report (Tom Loughrey)
• Introduction to Breakthrough Congregations
• Breakthrough Congregation: The Unitarian Church of Summit, New Jersey
• Special Appearance: The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Minnesota Secretary of State
• Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award (Joan Lund)
• Report on 2009-10 Review of Proposed Statement of Conscience
• Debate and Vote on Proposed Statement of Conscience: Peacemaking
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon in room 200 FG.
• Song
• Presentations and Vote to select a Congregational Study/Action Issue
  • Beacon Press Report (Helene Atwan)
  • UUA Financial Advisor’s Report (Dan Brody)
  • 2010-2011 Budget Report (Paul Rickter)
• Announcements (Tom Loughrey)
• Recess

Plenary IV

Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
• Call to Order
• Report of the UUA Board of Trustees
• Introduction of International Guests
• Presentation of the O. Eugene Pickett Award
• Update: Standing on the Side of Love
• Breakthrough Congregation: The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
• Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation Report (Linda Lu Burciaga)
• Unitarian Universalist United Nations’ Office Report (Bruce Knott)
• Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Report (William F. Schulz)
• Motions and Votes to Admit Actions of Immediate Witness
• Song
• Debate and Vote on amendment to Rule G-9.12.6: Make candidate information available electronically
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG
• Debate and Vote on amendments to Bylaw Sections 4.11, 4.12, 4.14, 5.7 and 15.2: Assign responsibility for the General Assembly agenda to the UUA Board
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG
• Debate and Vote on amendments to Bylaw Section 4.16 and Rules G-4.12.1 and G-4.18.2: Remove “continental” references in the social witness process
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG
• Debate and Vote on amendment to Rule G-4.12.3(c) to designate email notification for social witness process
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG
• Debate and Vote on amendments to Bylaw sections 5.4 and 6.7: Removal of a committee or board member for cause
  NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 101 FG
• Announcements
• Recess
Plenary V
Saturday 2:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting and Recognition of Departed Donors
- Song
- Breakthrough Congregation: The UU Area Church at First Parish, Sherborn, Massachusetts
- UUA President’s Report (Peter Morales)
- Report of the UUA Staff Leadership Council (Kay Montgomery, Harlan Limpert)
- Offering for the Katie Tyson Fund for Young Adult and Campus Ministry
- Report of the Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (Glenn Farley)
- Unitarian Universalists and Congregationally Based Community Organizing
- UUA Board Report: Business Resolution on GA 2012
- Updates on Arizona SB 1070 and related issues
- Song
- Debate and Vote on Business Resolution: General Assembly 2012 in Arizona
  *NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in room 101 FG*
- Recess

Plenary VI
Sunday 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Call to Order
- UU Ministers’ Association update on items of interest to congregations (Don Southworth, Kendyl Gibbons)
- Special Presentation: Dan Aleshire, Executive Director, The Association of Theological Schools on The Future of Ministry
- Breakthrough Congregation: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato, Minnesota
- Debate and Vote on Business Resolution: The Green Revolution in Religion
  *NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 4:30 p.m. in room M100 CD*
- Song
- Debate and vote on proposed amendments to Bylaw sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.7, 8.3, 9.4 and 9.5: Changes to nomination, election, and terms of President and Moderator
  *NOTE: The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 101 FG*
- Recess

Plenary VII
Sunday 2:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Transforming Governance: District Presidents’ Update (John Sanders and Mary Ellen Morgan)
- Secretary’s Report on 2009 Responsive Resolution on Power, Privilege and Oppression (Tom Loughrey)
- Song
- Debate/Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
  *NOTE: The Mini-Assemblies for this item are on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in rooms 101 ABC, 101 DE, 101 FG, 101 H, 101 I and 101 J.*
- Song
- Moderator’s Report (Gini Courter)
- Recognizing the General Assembly Planning Committee, Local Committee, and Staff
- Resolutions in Response to the Report of an Officer
- Invitation to General Assembly 2011
- Right Relationship Team Final Report (Garner Takahashi-Morris)
- Final Credentials Report (Tom Loughrey)
- Adjourn
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), 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 2010 - 2011 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 Resolutions 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 in the Exhibit Hall 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).

**RULE 14. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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 2010 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, June 27.
I. Where We Stand

We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace.

1. Our commitment to creating peace calls us to the work of peacebuilding, peacemaking and peacekeeping.

   Peacebuilding is the creation and support of institutions and structures that address the roots of conflict, including economic exploitation, political marginalization, the violation of human rights, and a lack of accountability to law.

   Peacemaking is the negotiation of equitable and sustainable peace agreements, mediation between hostile parties and post-conflict rebuilding and reconciliation.

   Peacekeeping is early intervention to prevent war, stop genocide and monitor ceasefires. Peacekeeping creates the space for diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aid, and nonviolent conflict prevention through the protection of civilians and the disarmament and separation of those involved in violent conflict.

2. We advocate a culture of peace through a transformation of public policies, religious consciousness, and individual lifestyles. At the heart of this transformation is the readiness to honor the truths of multiple voices from a theology of covenant grounded in love.

3. We all agree that our initial response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods. Yet, we bear witness to the right of individuals and nations to defend themselves, and acknowledge our responsibility to protect our neighbors from aggression. Many of us believe force is sometimes necessary as a last resort, while some of us believe that nonviolence is adequate in all circumstances.

4. We repudiate aggressive and preventive wars, the disproportionate use of force, and targeting that includes a high risk to civilians. We support international efforts to curtail the vast world trade in armaments and call for ultimate nuclear disarmament and abolition of other weapons of mass destruction. We repudiate unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous new forms of imperialism. In an interdependent world, true peace requires the cooperation of all nations and peoples.

5. For Unitarian Universalists, the exercise of individual conscience is holy work. Conscientious discernment leads us to engage in the creation of peace in different ways. We affirm a range of individual choices, including military service and conscientious objection (whether to all wars or particular wars), as fully compatible with Unitarian Universalism. For those among us who make a formal commitment to military service, we will honor their commitment, welcome them home, and offer pastoral support. For those among us who make a formal commitment as conscientious objectors, we will offer documented certification, honor their commitment, and offer pastoral support.

6. Our faith calls us to create peace, yet we confess that we have not done all we could to prevent the spread of armed conflict throughout the world. At times we have lacked the courage to speak and act against violence and injustice; at times we have lacked the creativity to speak and act in constructive ways; at times we have condemned the violence of others without acknowledging our own complicity in violence. We affirm a responsibility to speak truth to power, especially when unjust power is exercised by our own nation. Too often we have allowed our disagreements to distract us from all that we can do together. This Statement of Conscience challenges individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations and Association to engage with more depth, persistence and creativity in the complex task of creating peace.

II. Historical and Theological Context

Our Universalist faith in the oneness of the whole human family teaches us that peace is necessary; our Unitarian faith in the sacred potential of each person teaches us that peace is possible.
Creating Peace: A Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience

A. Historical Practices

For two hundred years, Unitarians and Universalists have worked to build peace by removing the underlying causes of war. As early as 1790, Universalists gathered in Philadelphia declared “although defensive wars are lawful, there is a time coming, when the light and universal love of the gospel shall put an end to all wars.” The Massachusetts Peace Society, founded by Unitarians Noah Worcester and William Ellery Channing during the War of 1812, helped launch the first peace movement to include both those repudiating all violence and those supporting defensive wars; to welcome members of all religious persuasions; and to affirm that nonviolence is humanly possible as well as divinely commanded. Since that time, Unitarian and Universalist peace efforts have continued to be informed by those principles. Though we have always held diverse views on the justification of defensive and humanitarian wars, at our best we have worked together to end the violence of slavery, to promote international law, to liberate Jews and others from Nazi tyranny, and to build the United Nations and other institutions of international cooperation. This Statement of Conscience builds on this tradition by challenging individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations and Association, to engage in a variety of nonviolent and peacebuilding practices.

B. Theological Principles

This Statement of Conscience is grounded in the following Unitarian Universalist theological principles:

The fundamental unity and interdependence of all existence. The interdependence we have long affirmed has become the daily reality of our globalized world. Our interdependence makes it both possible and necessary that we see the peoples of the world as one community in which the security of each nation is entwined with the security of all others.

The transforming power of love. We affirm the reality of love as a dynamic relational power within and among us. This power moves us to create relationships of compassion, respect, mutuality and forgiveness; to love our neighbor; and to recognize everyone as our neighbor. We stand on the side of love when we work for peace.

The inherent worth and dignity of all persons. All human beings have the right to a meaningful and fulfilling life, including physical safety and economic and social wellbeing. All have the responsibility to work on behalf of the dignity of others.

Human freedom. Most human beings are free moral agents with the capacity to make choices and are accountable for these choices. Human freedom may be used creatively or destructively. These possibilities are expressed not only in our individual choices and actions, but also in the institutions and social structures we create. Peace is the product of human choices that empower human agency and extend the possibilities for human freedom.

Rejection of moral dualism. We reject as false the sharp separation of good and evil, refusing to assign individuals and nations into one category or the other. Moral dualism can blind us to our own and our nation’s capacity for evil and to the inherent worth and dignity of those whom our nation labels as enemies. In the midst of ambiguity we can build peace by cultivating the goodness in ourselves and others.

Cooperative power. Power is created and expressed in complex networks of human relationships. Power can be used to create or destroy, to liberate or oppress. Preventing war and creating nonviolent alternatives require the use of cooperative power—power with, not power over. Cooperative power is grounded in a commitment to mutual persuasion over coercion.

Justice and peace. Justice concerns the fair ordering of human relationships, including social and political relationships. War signals the breakdown of fairly ordered human relations. Peace is an attribute of relationship; it is a process, not a stagnant state. Peace emerges as our social and political institutions become more cooperative and more just. Lasting peace rests on just relationships.

Humility and open-mindedness. We affirm an open-mindedness that makes us suspicious of all claims of finality, including our own. Humility allows us to take strong stands while remaining open to the possibility that we are wrong or that future circumstances may call for a different position.
Creating peace calls for action at all levels of human interaction. To be effective, our actions must be incorporated into existing structures and institutions, and new systems must be created. We support the Unitarian Universalist Peace Ministry Network in its work of identifying resources, disseminating information, and evaluating methods to create a culture of peace on all levels.

Creating Peace In Our World
We covenant to advocate vigorously for policies and participate in practices that move our nation toward collaborative leadership in building a peaceful, just, and sustainable world, including:

- Supporting the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office in advancing the United Nations’ efforts in promoting peace, and its implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in ending the use of torture and addressing institutional violence in all its forms;
- Supporting the Unitarian Universalist Association and our congregations in influencing public policy decisions made by the U.S. Congress and Administration; and
- Participating in international civilian peacebuilding, peacemaking, and unarmed peacekeeping teams.

Creating Peace In Our Society
We covenant to act in the wider community in reducing the causes of institutional and structural violence by:

- Supporting Association and congregational initiatives aimed at eradicating all forms of cultural, political, and economic oppression;
- Supporting the socially responsible investment of our Association and congregational assets; and
- Supporting Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth in advocating lifestyles and policies that promote harmony with our natural environment.

Creating Peace in Our Congregations
We covenant to create peace through worship, religious education, and social action by:

- Developing Peace Teams to provide training in compassionate communication and conflict resolution, and to engage each congregation in multi-level action toward a culture of peace;
- Working through congregational governing bodies to develop and honor behavioral covenants in all aspects of congregational life;
- Working through our lifespan religious education structures to provide workshops on conflict resolution and compassionate communication, to encourage understanding and participation in social justice ventures, and to utilize Unitarian Universalist resources such as “Peacemaking in Congregations: A Guide to Learning Opportunities for All Ages;”
- Becoming a resource for creating peace within our communities in cooperation with other faith traditions and community organizations;
- Working toward the reduction of violence in our communities by supporting community policing, economic development and conflict resolution; and
- Supporting veterans, active duty service members, conscientious objectors, and their families, and providing them with opportunities to share what they have learned.

Creating Peace In Our Relationships
As individuals we covenant to:

- Learn and practice the skills of compassionate communication;
- Honor the behavioral covenants of our congregations; and
- Adopt lifestyle changes that reflect reverence for the interdependent web of all existence.

Creating Peace Within Ourselves
We recognize that peace begins with each person and covenant to:

- Develop for ourselves and our congregations spiritual practices that cultivate inner peace;
- Sustain these practices as foundational to wholeness, forgiveness, and reconciliation; and
- Practice loving-kindness and compassion toward ourselves and attention to the ethical insights that follow.

In reverence for all life, we covenant to practice peace at all levels of human interaction.
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2010 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop on Friday at 1:00 p.m. in room 200 FG of the Minneapolis Convention Center prior to voting in the Plenary Session. One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

CSAI 1: Energy, Peace, and Justice

Issue
Nations fight with each other to control natural resources. Energy use is essential for human survival. How can Unitarian Universalists help all people, in all nations, to secure an adequate supply of energy that is safe, affordable, and sustainable? How can we prevent energy conflict while promoting energy justice?

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
The Unitarian Universalist Association has a vision of environmental justice. One of our principles acknowledges the interdependent web of existence. We affirm the importance of peace and human rights. All of our principles, together, form an integrated and moral statement to encourage healthy relationships and to guide our actions.

Topics for Congregational Study
Start with a chalice lighting. Fire and light are important in organized religion and there are different stories to consider. Ask, “How much energy do people need?” Note the patterns of energy use in different parts of the world. Why do some people consume so much while others have so little? Do people have a human right to energy? If so, how should this right be secured? As you discuss energy issues, keep in mind that transportation requires energy.

Some economists and scientists believe that the global supply of fossil fuels will soon be exhausted. Some experts disagree. Study the peak oil debate. Consider the future of coal and natural gas use. Is the world moving towards a major energy crisis? If so, how should Unitarian Universalists respond through community, national, and international programs?

Discuss global competition for fossil fuels. Where do you see potential conflicts? How can “energy wars” be avoided? How can developing nations like China and India overcome poverty while helping to protect the global environment? Should the development of nuclear power be encouraged as a source of energy? If so, what problems do you anticipate?

Possible Congregational/District Actions
Work for peace with energy justice. Study the “energy poverty” problem at the community, national, and international levels. The poor often need transportation and home energy assistance. How can your congregation and district be helpful? What sources of assistance are available for the homeless, the elderly, and people with disabilities? Support national and international programs that recognize and address the “energy poverty” problem.

How much energy does your congregation need? Review energy use. Encourage energy conservation. How can your congregation and district support the production of clean and renewable energy in North America and in other parts of the world?

Develop transportation plans for your congregation and district. Improve access to your activities while reducing the use of automobiles.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements

CSAI 2: National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative

Issue
The economic crisis and current political responses will continue to destabilize our communities and erode our democracy. We cannot return to “economics as usual” without deepening economic inequality, fragmenting community resilience, and exacerbating the ecological crisis. Most areas of injustice are connected to the nature of our current economic system.
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
Stories of how our financial sector came to such a crisis reveal a moral malaise that is shocking to Unitarian Universalists (UUs) who treasure the principles of our ethical religion. Guided by our goals of justice, equity, compassion and the democratic process we are called to examine and work to reform our financial system.

Topics for Congregational Study
• What caused the collapse?
• Can the economy be repaired by regulation of the current financial system or is the structure itself inherently unjust? Is the Federal Reserve federal or a reserve?
• What would a caring economic democracy look like? How would it address the distribution of resources, meaningful work with a living wage, health of local communities, the locus of decision-making?
• If corporations were chartered to promote the public good not just maximization of profit, how should they be structured, reviewed and controlled? Does the “personhood” of corporations affect our democracy?
• Whom does the current tax system serve?
• What are my responsibilities as an individual consumer, shareholder, owner, investor, or employee, toward a just financial system? What are our responsibilities as religious congregations and as a denomination?
• What is the ethical balance between individual freedom and community responsibility?
• What structures and practices can we promote to achieve our principles of justice, equity, compassion, democratic process, the interdependent web of all existence and world community?

Possible Congregational/District Actions
• Research into what our current investments support and what social screens they utilize.
• Research into community banks, local private equity investment opportunities and into the effects of giant corporations on local quality of life.
• Recognize and value our “real wealth” through support of local businesses, farmers, artisans, so that creativity is encouraged and money re-circulates within the community.
• Create a new economic story that affirms and promotes our UU Principles and values service, local communities and real wealth over fantasy finance that rewards the distant few.
• Establish “common security clubs”–to learn together, strengthen mutual aid activities and engage in social action toward a more just financial system.
• Districts may put on workshops to extend the resources within congregations.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements

Substantiating Information
For documentation on the current economic crisis, its roots and prospects for cure see any newspaper and the books listed under study group material for congregations:
• Richard Gilbert, How Much Do We Deserve
• David Korten, Agenda for a New Economy
• Riane Eisler, The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics
• Naomi Klein, Shock Doctrine: the Rise of Disaster Capitalism
• Les Leopold, The Looting of America
• Jack Bogle, Enough: Measures of Money, Business and Life
• Naomi Wolf, The End of America

National Organizations Currently Working on this Issue
Americans for Financial Reform is a coalition of nearly 200 national, state and local consumer, labor, retiree, investor, community and civil rights organizations who have come together to spearhead a campaign for real reform in our banking and financial system. “For too long, the rules of Wall Street have been written by the bankers themselves. The huge mismanagement of risk by major financial firms, the ensuing financial crisis, and the related economic recession have cost millions of workers their jobs, forced millions of families out of their homes, and wiped out trillions of dollars in retirement savings. The large banks and Wall Street have undermined Americans’ confidence in the integrity and fairness of financial institutions, and of the regulators and regulations that should have held them accountable. Now we have to look at the mess and look at the root causes to ensure that it won’t happen again.”
Center for Partnership Studies: Alliance for a Caring Economy (ACE) is supported by Riane Eisler’s work and is composed of groups and individuals working with representatives from government, business, civil society, and academic sectors (based on partnership/caring principles) to develop the foundation for a Full Spectrum Economy. They are currently working collaboratively to:

- Collect information on what is already happening to give economic value to care giving, such as paid parental leave and economic measurements that, unlike GDP, take into account the essential economic contribution of care giving in both the formal and informal economies.
- Catalog economic metrics to be published, refined, developed, and promoted.
- Provide a forum for new ideas and initiatives, support pilot projects, and provide a framework for testing and disseminating new programs and policies.
- Bring the concept and practicalities of Caring Economics into business and economics schools.
- Bring together innovative thinkers to conceptualize new economic inventions.
- Offer education and opportunities for discussion about Caring Economics and the Full Spectrum Economy.
- Develop virtual outreach to assist with communication and discussion. Prepare educational booklets (hard copy and virtual) to raise awareness of the value caring and caretaking, including what can be done at the home, community, business, and national levels to recognize and reward this work.
- Develop an implementation guide to assist organizations to put these examples into practice.

Navigating The Great Turning Initiative is a project of the People-Centered Development Forum and is developed in response to David Korten’s latest book, The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community. This Initiative’s mission is to contribute to the greater body of Great Turning work by forwarding the following framing ideas and connections:

- Help individuals, communities, and organizations displace the prevailing Empire prosperity, security, and meaning stories that define dominator hierarchy as the natural and essential human order, with Earth Community prosperity, security, and meaning stories that celebrate the human capacity to live in cooperative balance with one another and Earth.
- Facilitate the creation and strengthening of networks and alliances based on mutual trust and a shared commitment to changing the defining stories of the prevailing culture.
- Expose the dominator relationships of Empire as the upstream source of the many forms of violence against people and nature that threaten the human future, and identify the partnership relations of Earth Community as a defining feature of the cultures and institutions now within our means to bring forth.
- Name this the time of the Great Turning to highlight the epic nature of the choice between domination and partnership, and the opportunity created by a potential terminal crisis to create a world that works for all by turning to partnership as a conscious collective choice.
- Provide a strategic framework grounded in a theory of change that calls for displacing stories of Empire that affirm domination as inevitable and beneficial with stories of Earth Community that celebrate the positive potentials of partnership.

New Economy Working Group's mission “is to contribute to reframing the economic policy debate to address the social and environmental imperatives and opportunities of the 21st Century. The distinctive role of NEWGroup is to serve as a virtual policy think tank and communications resource for the growing number of civil society groups concerned with economic justice, environmental sustainability, and peace that are forming alliances and coalitions under a New Economy banner. Because of the powerful tendency to slip into a conventional framing in the midst of the myriad political battles at hand, we see our distinctive contribution as being to look beyond what is currently politically feasible and to articulate and hold for the larger movement the long-term vision of a New Economy that functions by spaceship rules and values to:

- Provide everyone the opportunity for a healthy, dignified and fulfilling life,
- Maintain and enhance the vitality of Earth’s natural systems,
- Grow the relationships of strong caring communities,
- Honor sound, rule-based market principles,
- Support an equitable and socially efficient allocation of resources, and
- Fulfill the democratic ideal of one-person, one-vote citizen sovereignty.

Common Security Clubs: What are they? A place to come together to grapple with our personal security in a rapidly changing world.

- To learn about the root causes of our economic and ecological challenges.
- To explore ways to increase our personal/economic security through mutual aid and shared action.
- To build on what we have together—and strengthen the institutions that we all depend on.
- In the process, make friends, find inspiration, have fun, and strengthen community.

There are three basic components

- Learn: Through popular education tools, videos and shared readings, participants increase their
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

306 understanding of the larger economic forces on our lives.
307 • Mutual Aid/ Local Action: Through stories, examples, web-based resources, a workbook and mutual
308 support, participants reflect on what makes them secure.
309 • Social Action: Many of our challenges won’t be solved through personal or local mutual aid efforts. They
310 require us to work together to press for larger state, national and even global changes.
311 Over 50 communities (including many UU congregations) around the country have piloted “Common Security
312 Clubs” in 2009. Clubs typically are 15-20 adults who commit to meet for six initial facilitated meetings using the
313 Facilitator’s Guide that we have created. Have a look at our suggested “Introductory Meeting” here. Anyone who
314 feels comfortable leading a group can start a CSC! We have the (free) Facilitator’s Guide available for use, and
315 other tools and resources here on our website. Contact Andre (andree @ commonsecurityclub.org) for materials and
316 guidance.
317 United for a Fair Economy (UFE) is a national, independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. UFE
318 raises awareness that concentrated wealth and power undermine the economy, corrupt democracy, deepen the racial
319 divide, and tear communities apart. We support and help build social movements for greater equality.
320 UU Organizations
321 Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) has among its programs “to inspire Unitarian
322 Universalists to become informed on society’s economic and social systems and how they promote justice and
323 injustice; to develop and work for passage of UUA study resolutions; to develop study materials on economic justice
324 for use by UU congregations to use.”
325 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a department for Economic Justice currently working on A
326 Living Wage, Strengthening the Rights of the “Informal Economy” with Women and Children at its Core, and
327 Equitable Distribution of Wealth through Fair Trade. “Economic justice is essential for securing basic human rights,
328 alleviating local and global poverty, and achieving a more peaceful and just world. As a human rights and social
329 justice organization, UUSC embraces a vision of economic human rights, recognizing that workers’ rights are human
330 rights.”
331 Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation (UUWF) is a continental membership organization that advances equity
332 and justice for women through education and advocacy. They recognize and support the essential element of
333 economic justice in empowering women both nationally and globally.

CSAI 3: Immigration as a Moral Issue

334 Issue
335 Migration of people—driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors—is taking place around the
336 world. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places
337 without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights.
338 Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
339 The dignity of all the world’s peoples is core to Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles and values. Given
340 the justice-oriented nature of UU faith, UUs are called to be leaders in the struggle for immigrant and
341 refugee rights, and to view immigration not only as a legal issue but also moral issue.

Topics for Study
342 • What are the definitions of refugee, migrant, permanent resident, citizen, non-immigrant, and
343 undocumented and documented immigrants?
344 • What international bodies are accountable for the welfare of migrants and refugees? Are these bodies
effective?
345 • Is international law concerning migrants and refugees (mainly the UN Declaration of Human Rights and
346 the Geneva Conventions) adequate for people seeking asylum in a current context?
347 • What underlying factors contribute to global migration? And where are we complicit or accountable in
these factors?
348 • Should there be complete global freedom of movement of migrants?
349 • What is the economic impact of immigration on countries and on individuals?
350 • For what reasons are immigrants arrested and incarcerated? And once incarcerated, how are individuals and
families treated in detention centers?
351 • What are our positions on the enforcement of national boundaries?
352 • Who are the immigrants in our communities?
353 • What are the myths and realities regarding immigrants?
• What role do racism, hate and intolerance play in driving immigration and enforcement policies?
• Are there ways that immigrants enrich the social fabric of the country in which they settle and in particular the United States?
• Using UU principles and values, what would be a just and humane immigration policy?

Possible Congregational/District Actions

- Participation in events that support the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees. Explore and implement programs for transforming concern into action for justice for immigrants.
- Support and participation in humanitarian, sanctuary and other efforts directly related to helping immigrants and refugees.
- Support and participation in efforts to change both national and international laws.
- Organizing and hosting events to educate, energize and empower those engaged in these issues.
- Coordinating experiential trips to gain first-hand understanding of border, migrant and refugee issues.
- Take an active role in interfaith, community organizing to address needs of migrants and refugees in our local communities and around the world. (UURISE, Interfaith Immigration Coalition, No More Deaths)
- Offer an intercultural awareness program for congregants.
- Develop an intentional program of inviting immigrants for cultural sharing.
- Conduct workshops on immigration, the facts and the human stories.
- A district may wish to sponsor a program either at DA or for clusters of UU congregations on radical hospitality in the multi-cultural context.
- Provide English as a Second Language tutoring.
- Conduct citizenship classes.

Related Prior Statements


Supporting Documentation

It is difficult to pin down exact numbers of people in transit around the globe. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), some 191 million people—or 3% of the world’s population—were living outside their country of origin in 2005. The UNFPA tracks trends in migration, noting specifically that more women are now migrating than in the past. They attribute a majority of migration to the economic need for work. In a press release dated April 21, 2009, Oxfam predicts a 54% increase in people affected by climate disasters by 2015. Other international NGOs are making similar predictions about the expected increase in “climate refugees.” A statistically significant correlation between migration and environmental degradation including climate change was shown by Afifi and Warner (2007), controlling for the already established major drivers of migration. A June 2009 press release from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) said “the number of people forcibly uprooted by conflict and persecution worldwide stood at 42 million at the end of [2008].” The UNHCR’s 2008 annual report said that 80% of the world’s refugees are in developing nations, and that although there was a decline in total refugees from 2007, they are already observing a sharp increase in 2009.

Both the United States and the European Union have invested in deterrence-based strategies to enforce boundaries where large numbers of migrants and refugees are crossing without authorization. In the U.S., the Department of Homeland Security was empowered to carry out the Secure Borders Initiative that called for a massive increase in border enforcement infrastructure, including patrol agents, walls and surveillance systems. The European Union created FronTex to enforce its southern and eastern boundaries using resources allotted from various member states. Both the U.S. and E.U. also fund deterrence efforts in “transit” states (Mexico in the case of the U.S., Libya and Morocco in the case of the E.U.). These parallel strategies that emphasize enforcement by deterrence have led to the deaths of countless thousands of migrants and refugees.

Other countries throughout Latin America, Africa and Asia are employing harsher border controls coupled with more aggressive immigration enforcement. The numbers of immigrants and refugees in detention centers has swelled around the globe.
To begin addressing these problems, UU churches are becoming involved in a variety of ways. In Arizona, where the numbers of migrant deaths is the highest along the U.S./Mexico border, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson (UUCT) adopted local humanitarian organization No More Deaths as a ministry of the church. No More Deaths provides direct humanitarian assistance to migrants crossing the desert and to those repatriated back to Mexico by the Department of Homeland Security. No More Deaths works with a variety of faith, secular, NGO and governmental partners in its work. UUs from around the country have traveled to Arizona to volunteer with NMD, and congregations have sent monetary and material donations to support their humanitarian work. In December of 2005, a NMD volunteer and member of UUCT was issued a littering ticket while putting out gallon jugs of water for migrants near the border. He fought the ticket and was convicted by a jury in federal court for “knowingly littering,” and is currently under orders to perform 300 hours of community service and complete one year of probation.

In Phoenix, UU minister Susan Frederick-Gray announced a call to action to bring attention to the racist tactics of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, whose raids and checkpoints resulted in the deportation of hundreds of undocumented immigrants and spreading fear and hate in those communities. Rallies against Arpaio and the 287(g) agreements that empower local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration law followed. To date, Sheriff Arpaio is still in office.

Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services & Education, Inc. (UURISE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing low-cost legal immigration counseling and representation, comprehensive refugee resettlement services, educational and advocacy programs on human and legal rights, and outreach to immigrant victims of human trafficking, persecution, torture, domestic violence and other crimes. UURISE is based in San Diego, CA but travels around the country to participate in various trainings and seminars.

Additional References


U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. See an introductory page on all types of visas for foreign nationals. From that page it is possible to learn about visitors, temporary workers, student and immigrant visas. The page also contains links to statistical reports, laws, and an FAQ about coming to the United States via legal means.

The Pew Hispanic Center links to an enormous amount of data concerning the hispanic population of the United States. See information specifically related to immigration. The Pew Hispanic Center offers many detailed studies of the Hispanic population by country of origin, occupational and economic profiles, and many similar Statistical resources about Hispanic immigrants.

Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Council. Their home page is packed with detailed reports on legal actions and strategies, program links to many facts and statistics on immigration, and additional program links to more information resources.

UNHCR, 2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons. This link presents the immense global scope of our present immigration problems. The 12 million undocumented workers who arouse such passions in the United States are only a fraction of the total number of stateless and displaced persons in our world today.

CSAI 4: Ending Slavery

Issue

More people are enslaved today than at any time in history, about 27 million worldwide. They are in communities throughout the U.S. and their stolen labor creates objects we consume every day. Yet ending slavery forever is within our grasp. We can finish the work begun by our abolitionist forebears.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism

Slavery is an affront to our principles, stripping people of their dignity and the worth of their labor. It is intrinsically violent, unjust and degrading. Through our faith and our history, we know that all people have inherent worth and dignity and that freedom is a right for every person.

Topics for Congregational Study

- Slavery has been a part of many cultures throughout history. Do you know how slavery affected your ancestors? Were they enslaved? Were they slave holders? What is your congregation’s history with slavery? How does knowing about your community’s or your family’s history impact how you feel about
Many products we use every day are manufactured using slave labor. The steel in our cars may be formed using charcoal created by slaves. Our clothing could be cut or sewn by forced slave labor. Would you buy a product that you knew was made by slaves?

In America, slavery and human trafficking is often hidden in plain sight. We can all learn the warning signs of slavery and trafficking. If you saw the warning signs of slavery, what would you do? Who would you contact?

Can you imagine the feeling of being emancipated? What do people need after the experience of enslavement?

Are there local organizations or services in your area that support victims of trafficking and slavery? What can you do to support former slaves in your community? Would you do the same for former slaves in other countries?

Many experts believe that we have never been closer to ending slavery. What is your congregation willing to do to end slavery? What are you willing to do?

### Possible Congregational/District Action

- Most Americans are unaware of the prevalence of modern slavery. Contact other local faith leaders, communities and local media to let them know your congregation is addressing modern slavery.
- Hold a book discussion, DVD showing, or information session on contemporary slavery.
- Incorporate information about ending modern slavery in your youth religious education program.
- Purchase Fair Trade products, such as coffee, at your congregation. Educate members about Fair Trade chocolate, clothing, rugs and other products.
- Where Fair Trade options aren’t available, urge companies to take responsibility for labor practices in their product chains. Press for development of product chain disclosure of products that often use slavery, such as charcoal and coltan (which is used in cell phones).
- Contact local law enforcement and other authorities to find out if there is a state or local Anti-Slavery Task Force, and if officers have received trainings on slavery. If not, contact local legislators.
- Write to national legislators to make them aware that their constituents are concerned about slavery.
- Encourage the creation of a national plan to end slavery within our borders. Ask them to use diplomacy, trade and foreign aid to target slavery internationally.

### Related Prior Social Witness Statements

The last time modern slavery was addressed as a General Resolution was in 1965 and in 1967. More recent Social Witness Statements reference the successes of 19th Century Abolitionists. There are also Actions of Immediate Witness, a Business Resolution and a Responsive Resolution that express our opposition to slavery.

- **Human Rights Conventions, 1965:** “BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the United States Senate, with all possible speed, to ratify the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; the Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor; and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;”
- **Strengthening the United Nations, 1967:** “URGES: That the United States Senate advise and consent to ratification of the following Human Rights Conventions: 1. The Supplementary Convention of the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, prepared under the direction of the United Nations in 1956, to which 61 nations are now parties; 2. The Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor, adopted by the International Labor Organization in 1957, to which 74 nations are now parties;”
- **The New Abolitionism, 1982:** “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges all Unitarian Universalists to recognize and support solemnly and with hope the great new historical movement known as The New Abolitionism, ‘a worldwide moral and religious movement which says ‘no’ to the nuclear arms race and nuclear war as the old Abolitionism launched a crusade to say ‘no’ to slavery. The New Abolitionism against slavery... can be a winning crusade’ because it must;”
- **The Alien Tort Claims Act And Accountability For Multinational Corporations, 2004:** “The Alien Tort Claims Act is the only United States law permitting multinational corporations with significant assets in the United States to be held accountable for their unethical behavior elsewhere in the world. Passed in 1789 by the First Congress of the United States, it enables victims of torture, slavery, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity to put the corporations that are responsible on trial in American courts.”
- **Women’s Rights Anniversary, 1998:** “Therefore be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Association shall within this two-year period 1. Make effort to note the milestones in the critical anti-slavery efforts of
women and the women’s rights struggle, from the 1848 Convention to the present…”

- Truth, Repair, and Reconciliation, 2007: “President Sinkford asked, ‘What are our truths? To whom must we be reconciled?’ We have many stories to uncover—genocide, slavery, oppression. Only by knowing our truths can we act boldly on our spiritual journey of healing.”

References

Experts in modern slavery define a slave as a person who is forced to work without pay beyond bare survival, and who is not free to leave, either through violence or through threat of violence. See Free The Slaves or Anti-Slavery or any of the books referenced below.


The Slave Next Door: Human trafficking and slavery in America today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (Berkeley; University of California Press, 2009) or the FBI Human Trafficking website.

Free the Slaves has a 25 year plan for ending slavery, detailed in Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales (Berkeley; University of California Press, 2007).

There is a strong and vibrant movement to end slavery. Free the Slaves is an organization with a mission of ending all forms of slavery globally through support of grassroots liberation and rehabilitation actions. Anti-Slavery International, based in the United Kingdom and founded in 1839, also works to eliminate all forms of slavery. There are also countless organizations that deal with specific regions or aspects of eliminating slavery, some of which have a specific focus on putting our Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles into action.

- The Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program works with key leaders and organizations of India’s most marginalized and disadvantaged peoples in their struggle to secure human rights and economic and social justice. Part of their focus area is working to eliminate debt bondage in India. Shramajivee Mahila Samity (SMS), one of their partner organizations, is the recipient of the 2009 Harriet Tubman award given to a community-based organization working to dismantle slavery. SMS goes undercover to expose traffickers, helps slavery survivors return home and raises awareness within villages to slave-proof their communities.

- The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. UUSC works by partnering with grassroots organizations, including those whose work prevents slavery. For example, one partner, the Rock Women’s Group, educates at-risk youth in Kenya who are vulnerable to trafficking. UUSC also helps UU children throughout the country participate in Reverse Trick-or-Treating, which educates children about child and slave labor in the cocoa industry.

- Unitarian Universalists Against Slavery is a small organization focused on educating the UU community about slavery. It brought speakers to the 2003 General Assembly to speak about slavery. This organization has been dormant since 2005 but is now being revived.

Unitarians and Universalists have a strong history of opposing slavery. William Ellery Channing wrote a book entitled Slavery, where he stated that to enslave a person was an insult to God. He was accused of encouraging slave insurrection. Theodore Parker hid and defended fugitive slaves and was indicted for obstructing a federal marshal for defending Anthony Burns, a fugitive slave in his congregation. A list of biographies of Abolitionists and Civil Rights Unitarians and Universalists is available online.

Family History

Resources for uncovering your family history with slavery are available from many sources. Some resources are listed below:

- The documentary Traces of the Trade follows Katrina Browne as she and her family uncovers their history as descendent of a wealthy slave trading family.

- Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History, by Thomas Norman (Boston: Beacon Press, 2009)

- Listen to family history and review genealogical records for clues to your family history.

- The Passover holiday celebrates the Jewish people’s liberation from slavery in Egypt. This time of year can be used to draw connections between the Passover holiday and modern slavery.

Resources include local police or FBI office, the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or the U.S. Department of Justice Hotline at 1-888-428-7581 (during business hours).

Suggested reading about modern slavery:

- Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales (Berkeley: Unit. of California Press, 2007)


- Sex Trafficking: Inside the business of modern slavery by Siddharth Kara (New York: Columbia Unit. Press, 2009)
• The Slave Next Door - Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (Berkeley: Unit of California Press, 2009)
• To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales and Zoe Trodd (Ithaca: Cornell Unit. Press, 2008)
• Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy by Kevin Bales (Berkeley University of California Press, revised 2004)

DVD titles available from Free the Slaves that address modern slavery and human trafficking include:
• Slavery 101: a video introduction to modern day slavery. (12 minutes)
• Slavery: a global investigation: accompanies the book Ending Slavery, can be used by book groups (88 minutes)
• Freedom and Beyond: Rehabilitation of boys recently freed from slavery in northern India.
• Dreams Die Hard: The stories of four women enslaved in the U.S.
• Celebrating the Heroes of the Anti-Slavery Movement: Freedom Awards 2008. Includes Slavery 101 (12 minutes) and stories of Award winners in Ghana, Brazil, Philippines, and Uganda
• Freedom Awards 2009. Includes stories of Award winners in Pakistan, India and Cambodia

Teaching Packets are available at Free the Slaves.

Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

CSAI 5: Revitalizing American Democracy

Democracy requires an informed, engaged citizenry. Corporate and financial interests actively influence our government, but citizen participation and oversight have been insufficient to provide balance. Voting is important, but we must also keep informed, participate personally, discuss policy with others, observe all actions of government, and advocate for needed changes.

Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) Principles celebrate the worth and dignity of every person, liberty and justice for all, and democratic processes. Corporations have shifted our nation’s policies to favor profit-making and privatization of public resources. We the people must work to rebalance policies to support the well-being of all.

Can we evaluate the strength of our democracy by the extent to which our government promotes “the general welfare” of all our diverse people, which is one of the objectives stated in our Constitution.

Lewis Powell wrote a memo in 1971 for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, crystallizing 40 years of work by financial and corporate interests to achieve an unregulated “free market,” as detailed in Invisible Hands by Kim Phillips-Fein. Powell’s memo lays out a long term vision for corporate influence over culture and government. Can his vision help us to understand many of the changes that our culture and government have undergone since then, and to reverse those that do not promote “the general welfare?”

What recurring patterns underlie the many social justice issues that UUs commonly work on, such as health care, election integrity or the environment? For example, how are patterns of financial and corporate influence reinforced by our campaign finance laws and telecommunications laws? Identify specific instances in which corporations receive benefits and higher profits while certain costs are shifted to the public. Can seeing the common underlying patterns of inequity in different areas of government help us find more effective solutions?

How much do corporate interests control the content of our media? Are responsible and diverse viewpoints being lost due to the concentration of ownership of the media? How can we keep informed sufficiently to maintain oversight of government? How can we work to restore balance and honesty in media?

Do we subscribe to President Lincoln’s ideal of government “of the people, by the people, and for the people”? If so, what must we do to achieve or maintain it? Since people are busy, how can we find time to be involved to maintain our democracy? For example, how can we work with other UU congregations, interfaith and civic groups to champion voters’ rights, to observe all election procedures before, during and after elections, to monitor proposed election legislation, and to ensure fair redistricting after the 2010 census?

What election systems and procedures do our own county and state employ? How do local procedures facilitate or prevent observer and voter access? How can we oversee voting and vote-counting if they are done inside computers?

How can we educate young UUs and other Americans to know and value our history, our form of government, and our opportunities and responsibilities to take part in making our democracy work?

What does the history of voting rights in America have to teach us morally and practically? Do our
Constitution and federal and state laws protect civil rights and voting rights? How have federal and state laws been used or misused? What legislation should we develop, support, or oppose?

Possible Congregational / District Actions

• Offer to conduct events in your community and local schools in which people read and discuss the U.S. Constitution.
• Conduct events in which people read the Powell Memorandum out loud, and then brainstorm equally long-range plans to promote the general well-being of ordinary people.
• Choose an issue to focus on and identify officials who work on it. Visit them, attend their public meetings, and try to learn what is happening on that issue. If you discover barriers to citizen oversight, work to eliminate them.
• Organize workshops to learn and practice the skills of government oversight and advocacy.
• As a congregation, recruit poll watchers and poll workers, research voting systems and procedures used at the local level, and problems that may have occurred. Assist in Election Protection efforts before, during, and after elections. Follow the chain of custody of ballots and equipment, and observe testing, auditing, and recounts.
• Champion issues that relate to corporate and financial influence on government and culture, such as campaign finance reform, balance and accuracy in media, reinstatement of anti-usury laws, robust financial disclosure for campaign contributions, and opposition to corporate personhood.
• Establish a group to monitor reporting of news on a selected issue in the major and alternative media. Collaborate to write letters to editors, news articles and editorials, and complain when news reporting is partial, biased or absent.
• Partner with interfaith groups, other UU congregations, public interest and civil rights groups, including energetic local organizations, to develop citizen participation and leadership. Join or start a statewide chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry. Evaluate potential legislation and advocate for what is needed at the state and federal level.
• Work with local schools to teach age-appropriate civics and the Constitution starting in kindergarten. Work with students to mentor their discussions on topics in American history; economics; government; avenues for citizen participation; and the relevance of these topics to all of us today.
• Discuss with UU youth the pros and cons of careers in public service. Invite elected and appointed officials to discuss their career choices and how they prepared for and entered the field of public service.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements


Documentation Related to this Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI)

• Constitution of the United States
• Louis D. Brandeis by Melvin I. Urofsky, Pantheon Books (div. of Random House), September, 2009, chapters 6-10.
• “American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality” (PDF, 24 pages), report of the American Political Science Assn., 2004.
• Lewis Powell memo for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1971.
• Gangs of America, The Rise of Corporate Power and The Disabling of Democracy, by Ted Nace. Chapter 12, implementation of the Powell Memo.
• “Does Touchscreen Voting Violate the 5th Principle?” (PDF, 8 pages) Teresa Hommel, June 27, 2009.
• Al Gore, “Democracy in Trouble” keynote speech, We Media Conference, New York, NY, October 5, 2005
• Broadcast Blues: a media reform documentary. Shows the effects of concentration of media markets, and how people are starting to speak out against it.
• “Is America Ready to Vote?” (PDF, 188 pages) from Verified Voter, a 50-state report card about key election preparedness markers, including whether the state uses auditable voting systems, conducts audits, does ballot accounting and reconciliation, and provides sufficient resources like back-up paper ballots in machine jurisdictions. (See Introduction for examples of problems that have disenfranchised voters).
• Election Problem Log, failures by vendor and failures by state, and Handouts, 14-page description of electronic voting problems.
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

692 • Our Vote Live (2008) and Vote Protect (2004-2005) for state-by-state reports of election incidents
693 compiled by Election Protection Coalition and partners.
694 • Machine Failures, ES&S in the News, a partial list of documented failures. NOTE: ES&S bought out its
695 competitor Premier Election Solutions in September, 2009 and now controls 74% of the voting machines in
696 this country.
697 • Fair Elections Now (Flash): video on the effect of current campaign financing and the need for reform.
698 • The GAO (Government Accountability Office) Report to Congressional Requesters of September 2005,
699 titled “Elections (PDF, 101 pages): Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting
700 Systems are Under Way, but Key Activities Need to Be Completed.”
701 • Carter/Baker report, “Building Confidence in U.S. Elections” (PDF, 113 pages). See the executive
702 summary (at front), and details on p. 27. This report suggests other means for auditing machines in the
703 future, but recommends a paper backup now. American University’s Center for Democracy and Election
704 Management released a new report in July 2009 showing progress on Carter/Baker recommendations and
705 what remains to be done.
706 • KWTV, “75 Percent of Oklahoma High School Students Can’t Name the First President of the U.S.” Out of
707 1000 high school students tested with questions from the American citizenship exams, only 3% would have
708 passed that exam, although 92% of immigrants pass it on the first try. September 2009.

Groups Involved in Work that Supports this CSAI

709 We strongly suggest that UUs explore hands-on groups in their own cities and states that focus on citizen
710 participation and leadership, election observation and combating excessive financial influence of individuals and
711 corporations. Some state Election Integrity groups are listed at Verified Voting. You can consult the three contact
712 names listed at the end of this CSAI to help you locate additional resources.
713
714 Many of the large national civic organizations fall short when it comes to recognizing the need for fully observable
715 and observed election systems, but their state chapters in certain cases may have a better understanding of this and
716 other issues put forward in this CSAI. For example, this applies to the national ACLU versus the Massachusetts
717 ACLU.
718
719 UUs are encouraged to examine the pros and cons of election laws that have been enacted as well as proposed state
720 and federal legislation to see what they might encourage their legislators to co-sponsor or oppose. Information on
721 state and federal bills and laws is available on Verified Voting and other Election Integrity websites, as well as on
722 the Library of Congress website.
723
724 Hyde Square Task Force; ¿Oíste?; Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership; Verified Voting Foundation and
725 VerifiedVoting.org; VotersUnite!; Black Box Voting; Election Audits; Public Campaign, and Fair Elections Now;
726 Citizens for Election Integrity of MA; Fair Districts Florida; Florida Fair Elections Coalition; Florida Voters
727 Foundation; Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections; Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida.
728
729 Civil rights, policy and legal action groups include: Common Cause; Advancement Project; NAACP-LDF;
730 Democracia.
731
732 Professional groups include: The Electronic Frontier Foundation; Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility;
These bylaws changes provide for removal of committee and board members for cause.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 101 FG.

730  
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 or otherwise for good cause.

734  
Section 6.7.  Resignation and Removal of Trustees.
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 or otherwise for good cause.

These bylaws changes remove “continental” references.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG.

740  
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.
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.

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

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.

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.

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.

A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice is one that deals with issues of public policy within the province of the Department of Faith in Action. A Business Resolution directly involves the administration and structure of the Association.

Any resolution submitted which, taken as a whole, has as its purpose the making of a statement of social concern or principle shall be deemed to be a Study/Action Issue for Social Justice.

A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice or a UUA [(U.S. or Continental)] Statement of Conscience appearing on the Final Agenda shall not be amended so as to become a Business Resolution.

These bylaws changes relate to the election of president and moderator.
The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 2:45 p.m. in room 101 FG.

Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.
The standing committees of the Association shall be:

(a) the Nominating Committee;
(b) the Presidential Search Committee;
(b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
(c) the Commission on Appraisal;
(d) the Commission on Social Witness; and
(e) 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 close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as otherwise provided herein. One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years. Any member of 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. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President’s term. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve for terms of six years.

Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.

The Presidential Search Committee shall consist of five members elected by the General Assembly, one member appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and one member appointed by the Board of Trustees. The election and appointment of members shall occur at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President’s term. Each appointment and election of a member shall be for a term of six years. The Committee shall nominate candidates for the office of President.

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 six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; 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 six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator [or Financial Advisor] 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.

(3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor 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.

(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 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position at large to be filled, except Moderator and President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring prior to October 1 of the year before the election. Only one person from any one member congregation shall be thus nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees on or before December 10 of each even-numbered year.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments
Section 9.5. Nomination of President and Moderator.

(a) President. The Presidential Search Committee shall submit no fewer than two nominations for the office of President for an election at the end of a presidential term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced at the General Assembly held one year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.

(b) Moderator. The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more nominations for the office of Moderator for an election at the end of a moderator term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced at the General Assembly held one year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a moderator election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.


(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, may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1. [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 not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. Nominations for youth trustee at large shall be so designated.

This rule change makes candidate information available electronically.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG.
This proposed bylaw change provides for more flexibility in notification for 
draft Statements of Conscience.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG.

These proposed bylaw and rule changes, made with the consent of the General Assembly 
Planning Committee, provide for the Board of Trustees to prepare and approve the 
General Assembly agenda, bringing the bylaws into line with actual current practice.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in room 101 FG.

Section 4.12(c)(3)
The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a 
ballet to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational 
Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be given to the congregations through the 
mail and by electronic mail. Congregational Poll ballots and the congregational comment forms concerning the 
draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.
The General Assembly Planning Committee Board of Trustees 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; 15.2;

(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] Board of Trustees 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] Board of Trustees 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(a)(2). UUA Statements of Conscience.

The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the [Planning Committee] Board of Trustees for inclusion on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General Assembly not more than ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, each of which shall be based in whole or in part on the issues submitted to it as described in the previous subsection. The Commission on Social Witness shall verify with the proposing congregation, district, or sponsored organization that the proposed Study/Action Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to being included in the poll ballot. The ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be included for approval by the congregations on the Congregational Poll ballot, such ballot to be available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 of the same year. Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).


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

Section 5.7. General Assembly Planning Committee.
The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year. No elected member shall serve on the Committee for more than two four-year terms in succession. The appointed members shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Committee [shall prepare the agenda for each regular General Assembly and] shall be responsible for arrangements for General Assembly and programs and meetings to be held in connection therewith. It may establish subcommittees of its members and may delegate part or all of its powers to them.

Section 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] Board of Trustees 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] Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.


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

Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and Districts.
[The General Assembly Planning Committee shall by] By November 1 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days before each regular General Assembly, [notify] each certified member congregation and district shall be notified of the dates for submitting items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be followed, and the forms to be used.
Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Poll.

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

The [General Assembly Planning Committee] Board of Trustees shall offer rules of procedure for adoption at the first session of each General Assembly.
THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN RELIGION

“What is the use of a house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?” Henry Thoreau, 1854

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary at the 2011 General Assembly, which is scheduled for Charlotte, North Carolina; and

NOTING the significance of the historic General Assembly resolution “Environmental Justice,” which was introduced for discussion at the 1993 General Assembly, in Charlotte, North Carolina in response to environmental racism, and other subsequent environment related resolutions; and

RECOGNIZING the progress that the Unitarian Universalist Association, the General Assembly planners and the Associated and Affiliated organizations have made since the 1993 General Assembly, in working for environmental justice and environmental stewardship; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make a special effort in the year 2011 to participate in the Association’s continuing work for environmental justice, environmental stewardship, biodiversity protection, and environmental restoration. We ask member congregations to reflect on the religious teachings and experiences that inspire Unitarian Universalists in this important work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to report to the 2011 General Assembly on our Association’s progress in promoting environmental stewardship and environmental justice, with recommendations for action in the twenty-first century; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this General Assembly encourages all of the Association’s member congregations to support the Green Sanctuary program and to apply for Green Sanctuary accreditation. We ask that an Association report on the history of the Green Sanctuary program and the Association’s other work for environmental justice be presented to the 2011 General Assembly.
WHEREAS the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law—SB 1070—that runs counter to our first principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person;

WHEREAS the Association stands in solidarity with allies using a widespread economic boycott of Arizona as leverage for Love against this hateful legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED: we will not meet in a state of fear.

Accordingly, the Assembly hereby:

• Directs the UUA General Assembly Planning Committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees an alternate location for General Assembly 2012 at a location outside the state of Arizona;

• Pledges to generate from Member Congregations the amount sufficient to cancel arrangements in Phoenix for GA 2012;

• Pledges further to generate an equal or greater amount to fund ongoing efforts to Stand on the Side of Love in Arizona.

• Pledges to renew and redouble our efforts to become a multicultural, anti-racist Association; to live as a people standing faithfully in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives.
# 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 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.
8. The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:
   a. 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;
   b. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men and religious and spiritual 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;
   c. 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.
9. 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.

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:

(a) conducted regular religious services;
(b) held at least one business meeting of its members, elected its own officers and maintained adequate records of membership; and
(c) made a financial contribution to the Association.

Members congregations must furnish the Association with a report of their activities showing compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above.

Compliance with subsection (c) above shall be determined by appropriate financial records of the Association. A member congregation shall also be considered to be certified for that part of any particular current fiscal year which precedes the deadline established by the Board of Trustees for submitting proof of compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above if during the next preceding fiscal year such a congregation made a financial contribution to the Association and filed the report required by this section during that year.

A member congregation which has not been certified for three consecutive fiscal years shall be deemed inactive and placed in an "inactive congregation" category. The Board of Trustees shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section and shall determine which member congregations meet 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 but 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 United States or Canada 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 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 may terminate such status upon 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 by payment of an annual contribution. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities, or finances of any independent affiliate.

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.
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...
For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.

The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be ranked in the order of the votes received in the Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving the most votes (not to exceed five in number) shall be submitted to the General Assembly as follows:

(i) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly, provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.

(ii) After one Congregational Study/Action Issue has been referred for study in accordance with (i) above, the Advocacy and Witness staff shall conduct a workshop to discuss processes for study and action on the selected issue. By November 1 following the General Assembly, the Advocacy and Witness staff shall have developed a resource guide pertaining to the Congregational Study/Action Issue selected by the General Assembly. The resource guide shall be made available and congregations notified of its availability.

If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in the previous year, the regular meeting of the General Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the implementation of such UUA Statement of Conscience.

If no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues are on the Final Agenda in the first Cycle year, or if no Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by the General Assembly, then following the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in this subsection.

(1) Member congregations and the districts shall submit by not later than March 1 of the third Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.

(2) During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of Conscience.

(3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll, to be made available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be delivered to the congregations through the mail and by electronic mail. Congregational Poll ballots, and the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).

(4) The Commission on Social Witness shall then prepare a revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience taking into consideration comments received by the member congregations and districts and place this revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda.

(5) For a draft UUA Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning such draft UUA Statement of Conscience.

(1) If the draft UUA Statement of Conscience is placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly, then the next General Assembly must debate and vote on the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience. Adoption of the UUA Statement of Conscience shall require a two-thirds vote.

(2) If (i) the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly; or (ii) the General Assembly chooses, by a two-thirds vote, to refer the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience to the Commission on Social Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the Commission of Social Witness shall continue the study and revision of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience for one more year. The revised UUA Statement of Conscience may be placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly pursuant to subsections (c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5) above. If by the regular meeting of the General Assembly following the additional year the Commission on Social Witness has been unable to find support to generate an acceptable UUA Statement of Conscience, the Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the Final Agenda with a proposal to drop such Congregational Study/Action Issue.

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 (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.

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

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.

During the General Assembly, a mini-meeting 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.

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

(1) 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.
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 for 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.

ARTICLE V Committees of the Association

Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

(a) the Nominating Committee;
(b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
(c) the Commission on Appraisal;
(d) the Commission on Social Witness; and
(e) 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 close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as otherwise provided herein.

One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years. Any member of 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.

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. 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 until after an interim of four years.

The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of the Association, as provided in Article IX.

Section 5.7. General Assembly Planning Committee.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year. No elected member shall serve on the Committee for more than two four-year terms in succession. The appointed members shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The 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 serve as a trustee or officer or hold a salaried position in the Association. The Commission on Appraisal shall:

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

Section 5.9. 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.

(a) Each appointment and election of a member to the Commission will be for a term of four years;
(b) One member shall be appointed each odd-numbered year;
(c) No fewer than one nor more than two members shall be elected each odd-numbered year, as is required to insure a full complement of elected members.

No member shall serve on the Commission for more than two four-year terms in succession. In the case of a vacancy in an appointed position by reason of death, disqualification, resignation or removal, the vacancy shall be filled at any time for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Board of Trustees for the balance of the term. The duties of the Commission are described in Section 4.12 and Section 4.16 of the Bylaws and Rules G-4.12.1, G-4.12.2, and G-4.18.2.

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 shall
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.

(c) Qualifications. No member of the Board of Review shall
during the term of office be a member of the Ministerial
Fellowship Committee, the Religious Education Credentialing
Committee, or hold any salaried position in the Association.

(d) Removal. A member of the Board of Review may be
removed without hearing by the vote of six other members.

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, qualification, 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.

Section 5.14. Call and Notice of Meetings.
Meetings of committees 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. Notice of committee
meetings shall be given in writing not less than ten nor more than
sixty days before the meeting and shall state the time and place of
the meeting.

ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees

Section C-6.1. Responsibility.
The Board of Trustees shall conduct the affairs of the Association
and, subject to these Bylaws, shall carry out the Association's
policies and directives as provided by law.

Section 6.2. Powers.
The Board of Trustees shall act for the Association between
General Assemblies.

Section 6.3. Membership.
The Board of Trustees shall consist of:
(a) the President, without vote, the Moderator and the Financial
Advisor;
(b) Three trustees elected at large, and a youth trustee at large;
(c) one trustee representing each district.

*Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.
The youth trustee at large and one-half of the other number of
trustees at large shall be elected at the regular General Assembly
held in each odd-numbered year. One-half, as nearly as possible,
794 of the trustees representing districts shall be elected prior to each
795 such General Assembly. The Board of Trustees shall divide the
796 districts into two groups for purposes of electing trustees.

Section 5.8. Term.
Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the
799 General Assembly at or prior to which they are elected and, with the
800 exception of the youth trustee at large, shall serve for terms of four
801 years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The youth
803 trustee at large shall serve for a term of two years or until his or her
804 successor is elected and qualified. Any partial term of more than
805 two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of this
806 section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms.
807 However, a trustee may at any time become one of the
808 elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office
809 as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person
810 who has served as elected officer for a full term shall thereafter be
811 elected a trustee without an interim of four years.

Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.
Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation.
An elected trustee representing a district shall reside in that district
and shall be a member of a member congregation located in the
district. A trustee who ceases to meet these qualifications shall
be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The youth trustee at
large shall be an individual aged 14 to 20 inclusive years at the time
of election. Not more than one trustee shall be a member of the
same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a member of a
member congregation in which another trustee is already a
member, such trustee shall be disqualified and the office declared
vacant. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules for the application
of this section to persons holding membership in more than one
member congregation.

Section 6.7. Resignation and Removal of Trustees.
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.
(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.
(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:
(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;
(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.

UUA Bylaws: 7
Section 7.5. Executive Committee.

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 therefor for the Board of Trustees, but only if four or more members vote the action.

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 final fellowship with the Association, 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.

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, and 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 members, none of whom is a parish minister, minister of religious education, community minister, a credentialed religious educator, or a director of religious education, appointed by the Board;

(b) one member who is a parish minister or community minister, appointed by the Board;

(c) one member who is a minister of religious education, appointed by the Board;

(d) one member who is a credentialed religious educator-masters level, appointed by the Board; and

(e) one member nominated by the Board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association and appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over religious education credentialing with the Association as provided in Article XII thereof. 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.

Section 7.14. Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall consist of five members as follows:

(a) three persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are members of the Board or hold a salaried position with the Association;

(b) the Financial Advisor; and

(c) a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be appointed by the Board.

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

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

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

Section 8.5. Removal of Officers. Elected Officers. An elected officer may be removed by a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board of Trustees at a meeting at which 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. 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 of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting its welfare. 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
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 by its members. In the absence of the Moderator a Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings and perform the duties of the Moderator. A Vice Moderator shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. In the event that more than one Vice Moderator is elected, one of the Vice Moderators shall be designated First Vice Moderator.

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 Bylaws. The duties of a Clerk under Massachusetts law. The Secretary shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association.

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. The Secretary shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association.

Section 8.15. Treasurer.

The duties of the Treasurer are set forth in Article X.

Section 8.16. Recording Secretary.

The Recording Secretary shall at all times be a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and upon being appointed shall swear to the faithful performance of the duties of the office. If the Recording Secretary ceases to be a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, such person shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Trustees, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board, and shall perform the duties of a Clerk under Massachusetts law.

Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.

The Board of Trustees may appoint such other officers as it deems necessary and shall fix their powers and duties.

Section 8.18. Compensation.

The Moderator, the Financial Advisor, and the appointed non-salaried officers shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed as determined by the Board of Trustees for expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

Section 8.19. Reports by Officers.

The Moderator, the President, the Financial Advisor, and the Treasurer shall each make an annual report to the member congregations and to each regular General Assembly.

ARTICLE IX  Nominations and Elections

Section 9.1. Elective Positions.

The elective positions of the Association include the elective positions at large and those trustee positions where the election occurs at the district level. The elective positions at large of the Association are those of the elected officers, those trustees not elected at the district level, and the elected members of the standing committees of the Association. No person shall hold more than one elective position at a time whether by election or appointment. Ex officio positions for the purposes of this Bylaw provision shall be deemed part of the elected position from which the ex officio position is derived.

Section 9.2. Nomination Procedures.

The nomination procedures set forth in these Bylaws and the Rules adopted hereunder are exclusive, and no person who is not nominated in accordance with such procedures can be elected to any elective position.

Section 9.3. Notice by Nominating Committee.

On or before August 1 of each even-numbered year, the Nominating Committee shall notify all certified member congregations in writing of the elective positions at large and vacancies to be filled at the next regular General Assembly.

Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position at large to be filled, except Moderator and President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring prior to October 1 of the year before the election. Only one person from any one member congregation shall be thus nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees on or before December 10 of each even-numbered year.

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 not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. 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 shall be a member of a member congregation. No person shall be nominated for more than one such elective position. If a person is nominated for more than one such elective position, the Secretary of the Association shall so notify such person in writing and such person shall have twenty days from the date of the notice to select one 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.
1224 If all persons nominated for an elective position at large die, decline
1225 to serve or are disqualified after the time has expired for making
1226 any further nominations, or if no valid and timely nomination is
1227 made, the position shall be filled after the final adjournment of the
1228 regular General Assembly at which the election would have been
1229 held in the same manner as if the position had been filled by
1230 election and had then become vacant.

Section 9.8. Supervision of Elections.
1231 The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at
1232 large. The Secretary may appoint a committee of tellers to count
1233 ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall
1234 decide any question arising during such an election concerning:
1235 (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of
1236 Rules made hereunder relating to election procedures;
1237 (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not
1238 covered by these Bylaws or by the Rules; or
1239 (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.
1240 The Secretary's decision shall be final. The Secretary shall remain
1241 neutral in the election and shall not engage in electioneering, except
1242 for advocacy of his or her own candidacy for offices for which he or
1243 she is nominated.

Section 9.9. Conduct of Elections at Large.
1244 (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written ballot, except
1245 that if only one person has been validly nominated for each
1246 elective position at large the persons so nominated shall be
1247 declared elected and no ballots shall be required.
1248 (b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by
1249 accredited delegates from certified member congregations
1250 and certified associate member organizations to the regular
1251 General Assembly at which the election is held and by
1252 trustees. No person shall cast more than one ballot.
1253 (c) Absentee Voting. Those entitled to cast ballots in an election
1254 may cast their ballots by mail. Absentee ballots shall be
1255 mailed at least forty five days prior to the General Assembly at
1256 which the election is being held. An absentee ballot must be
1257 received by the Secretary not less than seven calendar days
1258 before the General Assembly in order to be counted.

Section 9.10. Counting of Ballots.
1260 (a) For President. If there are no more than two duly nominated
1261 candidates for President, the candidate receiving the greater
1262 number of votes is elected. If there are more than two duly
1263 nominated candidates for President, the ballot shall be
1264 designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc.
1265 choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice
1266 votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first choice
1267 vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such
1268 candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the
1269 second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be
1270 repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes
1271 cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the
1272 one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.
1273 (b) For Other Elective Positions at Large. If there is one elective
1274 position at large to be filled, the candidate receiving the
1275 greatest number of votes is elected. If there is more than
1276 one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the
1277 candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of
1278 votes are elected.

Section 9.11. Nominations and Elections of Trustees
1281 Representing Districts.
1282 (a) District Bylaws. Each district shall in its bylaws set forth the
1283 method by which the certified member congregations of the
1284 Association within that district shall nominate and elect a
1285 trustee. Where two or more districts are required to share a

1293 (b) Time of Election. The election of a district trustee, except an
1294 election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 6.8(b), shall be
1295 held not less than 45 nor more than 300 days before the
1296 regular General Assembly following which such trustee is to
1297 take office.
1298 (c) Method of Nominations. The district bylaws shall provide
1299 that nominations may be made by a specific number of
1300 certified member congregations.
1301 (d) Method of Election. If a district's bylaws do not include a
1302 provision for the election of the trustee representing that
1303 district or the group of districts of which that district is a part, the
1304 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:
1305 (1) at large within the district, with each member of a
1306 certified member congregation casting a ballot by mail;
1307 (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
1308 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, with absentee ballots by the
delegates permitted;
1309 (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
designated in the district bylaws, allocating
among the candidates as it shall determine;
1310 (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
1311 (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.
1312 (e) Certification of Election. The secretary of the district or such
other district officer as may be designated in the district
bylaws shall certify the results of the election to the
Secretary of the Association as soon as they are available.
Such certificate shall be conclusive that the person so
certified has been duly elected if the district has adopted
bylaws conforming to the requirements of this section. A
deputy elected to fill a vacancy shall take office immediately
upon such certification.
1313 (f) Invalid Election. If the procedures for the nomination or
election of a district trustee violate the provisions of these
Bylaws, the election shall be invalid and a new election shall
be held not more than twelve months after the invalid
election.

1347 UUA Bylaws: 11
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 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 Association may assume that any act performed by an Assistant Treasurer was duly authorized and necessary.

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 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, and other entities. 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 11.6. Reinstatement to Fellowship.
1536 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may reinstate in or readmit to
1537 fellowship a minister who has previously resigned from fellowship
1538 or whose fellowship has been suspended or terminated.

Section 11.7. Appeal.
1540 A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is
1542 terminated may appeal the determination of the Ministerial
1543 Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of
1544 Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such
1545 appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the
1546 Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

Section 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.
1548 An appeal to the Board of Review may be heard by a panel of the
1549 Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its
1550 panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of
1551 the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's decision, and the information
1552 presented to the Committee, including the documents and other
1553 evidence compiled during the Fellowship Review, and the reasons
1554 articulated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for its decision
1555 terminating the minister's fellowship. If the minister requests
1556 consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously
1557 presented to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, then the matter
1558 shall be returned to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for
1559 consideration of that evidence before the Board proceeds with the
1560 appeal. These Bylaws and the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship
1561 Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel.
1562 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee's determination of fact and/or
1563 credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder
1564 could have reached such determination, and disputes of fact are to
1565 be resolved in favor of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's
1566 determination. The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the
1567 decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee only where
1568 necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of
1569 Review or its panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the
1570 Committee or take such other action as may be just. The Board of
1571 Review or its panel shall set forth its finding and conclusions and
1572 will serve upon the affected minister and the Ministerial Fellowship
1573 Committee. The decision shall be entered in the fellowship records
1574 and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be
1575 allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of
1576 Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section.

ARTICLE XII Religious Education Credentialing

Section 12.1. Religious Education Credentialing.
1579 Each member congregation has the exclusive right to employ its
1580 own religious educator, but the Association has the exclusive right
1581 to confer on religious educators a religious education credentialing
1582 status with the Association. No religious educator shall be required
1583 to subscribe to any particular creed, belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold religious education credentialing, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 12.2. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
1588 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall have
1589 exclusive jurisdiction over religious education credentialing except
1590 as otherwise provided herein. It shall make rules governing religious
1591 education credentialing, subject to the approval of the Board of
1592 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:

1. religious education credentialing includes credentialed religious educator-associate level status, credentialed religious educator master's 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 in 29 or readmit to religious education credentialing status 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 served upon the affected religious educator and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee. The decision shall be entered in the religious education credentialing 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, 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 the district shall be entitled to be member congregations of that district.

Section C-13.4. Autonomy.

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

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 of this Section 14.1 do not apply to the Rules of Procedure contemplated by Section 4.19.

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 with 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 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 substantially similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two years.

(c) 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 recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall review the recommendations of the study commission and, in its discretion, may submit the recommendations of the study commission to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. 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 next 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

*Rules whose section number is preceded by a “G” are those adopted by a General Assembly and may be amended or repealed only by a General Assembly, as provided in Section 14.1 of the Bylaws.

RULE I Name

No existing rules applicable to Article I.

RULE II Principles and Purposes


Because the Association is committed to the use of the democratic process, because its governing institutions are accountable to our congregations, because accessibility is critical to countering systemic and institutional oppression and because openness and trust are characteristics of a healthy religious community, the UUA Board shall establish policies to allow for the maximum transparency of its proceedings and of the proceedings of all UUA committees, commissions and task forces, consistent with their effective functioning. These policies shall include:

(a) providing advance notice of dates and locations of regular business meetings, and making agendas, reports and minutes available promptly;
(b) providing avenues for comment on issues on the meetings’ agendas;
(c) accommodating observers at regular business meetings, with the exception of executive sessions.
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.

**RULE III Membership**

**Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.**

- **Rule 3.3.1. New Congregations.**
  - It is the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association to encourage and assist the development of new congregations as well as to support and aid existing member congregations as stated in the purposes of the Association.

- **Rule 3.3.2. Procedure for Admission.**
  - A church or fellowship may become a member of the Association upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Association of a written application for membership.

- **Rule 3.3.3. Membership Requirements for Admission.**
  - A new congregation, to be recognized as a member of the Association, must have thirty (30) of its adult members be members solely of the new congregation.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.**
  - The order of administrative procedure:
    - Application for church or fellowship membership in the Association shall first be referred to the Congregational Services staff.
    - The Congregational Services staff will seek information and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of 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.
    - New congregations are expected to establish and maintain cooperative relations with Unitarian Universalist agencies, as appropriate and feasible.
    - 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 obtains 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.

- **Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.**

- **Rule 3.5.1. Required Annual Report.**
  - In each fiscal year of the Association (July 1 to June 30), each member congregation shall file with the Secretary of the Association an Annual Report on the form and in the manner provided by the Association. The Annual Report shall include a certification by a minister or principal officer of the member congregation stating (a) whether or not the member congregation complied with the conditions set forth in Section C-3.5 of the Bylaws during the Association’s prior fiscal year and (b) that the information provided to the Association in the Annual Report is true and correct to the best of the minister’s or principal officer’s knowledge.
Rule 3.7.2. Application for Associate Membership.

1990 Each applicant for membership shall submit with its application:

1991 (a) an attested copy of its charter and, unless it is included in the charter, an attested copy of its purposes, objectives, and bylaws;

1992 (b) the approximate number of members in the organization;

1993 (c) a list of principal officers with their personal mail addresses and the principal mail address of the organization;

1994 (d) a financial statement showing income and expenses for the latest fiscal year preceding the date of filing and showing assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of such fiscal year;

1995 (e) the dates upon which its governing board met during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of filing;

1996 (f) any yearly reports of its governing body and its principal officers sent to members during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of filing;

1997 (g) evidence that it enjoys tax exempt status:

1998 (1) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1954;

1999 (2) as a registered charity as provided for in the Income Tax Act (Canada); or

2000 (3) under the laws of the country governing the applicant's tax status;

2001 (h) if the applicant does not enjoy tax exempt status, the reason or reasons it does not;

2002 (i) a statement outlining the intended use of associate membership, if granted, and the goals and objectives of the organization that will be served by such use;

2003 (j) a statement outlining what advantage it is believed there would be to the Association and to the furtherance of the principles of the Association outlined in Bylaw Section C-2.2; and

2004 (k) any other information which the Board of Trustees of the Association shall require.


2006 Except in the year when it is admitted to membership, each associate member shall send to the Association on or before April 30 (i) an annual report which shall include the data required by subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Rule 3.7.3 and any other information which the Board of Trustees shall require and (ii) the contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10. If an associate member 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 associate membership status of such organization.


2007 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.

2008 No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an associate member of the Association until such membership is duly 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.

2009 Each associated member shall place the Association on its regular mailing list.


2010 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.

2011 Associate membership for 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.

2012 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 $1,000,000 or more and $250 for any applicant whose budget...
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.


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 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 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

Rule IV General Assembly

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 to each certified member congregation, associate member organization, and trustee. Such notice shall be given by the Secretary or the Recording Secretary.
Rule 4.6.3. 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-4.7.1. Recording the Vote on Resolutions.

(a) unanimously; or
(b) by a vote of two-thirds or more; or
(c) by a specified vote for or against.

When any resolution is reported by the Association, the recorded vote on each resolution shall be included.

Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

Rule G-4.9.1. Number of Delegates.

The Secretary of the Association shall, consistent with the Bylaws of the Association, determine the number of delegates to which certified member congregations merging or consolidating would be entitled under Bylaw Section 4.8(a). A minister emeritus/a shall be entitled to delegate status if (b) a community minister who (1) maintains active involvement in a certified member congregation in compensated ministerial activities; or (2) is a settled minister for the purpose of accreditation as a delegate of an associate member organization involved; or (c) a statement that the applicant is a member of a certified member congregation; or (d) a brief statement as to why the applicant is not able to present an official and properly executed accrediting card.

Rule G-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) is in affiliation with the congregation; and (4) is compensated for community ministry work which constitutes fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule recognized by the congregation as ministerial. A congregation is entitled to the number of delegate credentials of members of the congregation who are minister emeritus/as who have been entitled to delegate status by the General Assembly. A minister emeritus/a shall previously have settled in 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 Rule 4.8(a). A minister emeritus/a shall previously have settled in such congregation as described in this Rule.

Rule G-4.9.3. Mailing of Credential Cards.

Not less than forty-five days prior to each General Assembly, 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.

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 Credential 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.

Rule G-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 or only a particular General Assembly as each member 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 G-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 UUA Bylaws: 19
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 Tentative Agenda. 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 other Unitarian Universalist groups.

Rule G-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 parliamentary and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated 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 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise 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 Faith in Action. A Business Resolution directly involves the administration and structure of the Association.

Any resolution submitted which, taken as a whole, has as its purpose the making of a statement of social concern or principle shall be deemed to be a Study/Action Issue for Social Justice.

A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice or a UUA (Continental) Statement of Conscience appearing on the Final Agenda shall not be amended so as to become a Business Resolution.

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 action shall be eligible to be included on the Final Agenda from the Congregational Poll. If there is more than one version of a Business Resolution on the Tentative Agenda, the subject of the resolution shall be considered a single item on the Tentative Agenda and the Congregational Poll. All versions shall be listed consecutively within that item. An aye vote by a congregation for one or more versions shall be counted an aye vote for inclusion of a resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda, the version that receives the highest number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business Resolutions eligible from the Congregational Poll, the Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the eight Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of “recommended for action” votes on the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee may also include on the Final Agenda alternative versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to those selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle year, the Planning Committee also shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues receiving a majority of votes and the highest number of “recommended for action” votes on the Congregational Resolutions eligible for the Congregational Poll, the Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll. The Planning Committee shall include on the Final Agenda the five Congregational Study/Action Issues (if any) recommended by the Planning Committee for action in the Congregational Poll.

Rule G-4.18.4. Matters Submitted by Districts.

In the event that a proposed amendment to a Rule or a Business Resolution that was submitted by a district is to be considered at a
General Assembly, the district that submitted the proposed amendment or resolution may, in accordance with its own procedures, designate a representative to speak in support of the amendment or resolution at the General Assembly. The representative must be provided by the district with a certification of the representative’s appointment signed by an officer of the district.


The General Assembly Planning Committee shall offer rules of procedure for adoption at the first session of each General Assembly.

RULE V Committees of the Association

No existing rules applicable to Article V.

RULE VI Board of Trustees

Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.

Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes.

The Trustees representing districts are divided into the following two groups:

GROUP A

GROUP B

Clara Barton
Ballou Channing
Florida
Central Midwest
Mid-South
Heartland
Mountain Desert
Joseph Priestley
Ohio Meadville
Massachusetts Bay
Pacific Northwest
Metropolitan New York
Pacific Southwest
Northern New England
Southwest
Pacific Central
St. Lawrence
Prairie Star
Thomas Jefferson

Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.

Rule 6.6.1. Multiple Memberships.

For purposes of applying the Bylaw provision that no more than one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation, a person holding membership in more than one member congregation shall be treated as being a member only of that member congregation whose services such person most regularly attends. The Secretary shall make any determinations required by this rule, subject to appeal to the Board of Trustees, with the affected trustee or trustees not voting.

Rule 6.6.2. Implementation of Section 6.6.

If at the close of a General Assembly election, the results are such that, except for the provisions of Section 6.6, more than one person elected in the same congregation would serve at the same time on the Board of Trustees,

(a) If the conflict arises solely from the election just held the Secretary of the Association shall thereupon declare that the persons so elected are disqualified and that the offices to which they have been so elected are vacant and are to be filled as provided in the Bylaws.

(b) If the conflict arises because one person from a congregation is already serving on the Board of Trustees and another person from that congregation has just been so elected the Secretary of the Association shall declare that the person just elected is disqualified and the offices to which such person has been elected is vacant and that the vacancy is to be filled as provided in the Bylaws.

RULE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees

No existing rules applicable to Article VII.

RULE VIII Officers of the Association

Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.

Rule 8.1.1. Officers Enumerated.

The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include an Executive Vice President.

Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.

Rule 8.11.1. Executive Vice President.

The Executive Vice President shall have responsibility under the President for the administrative affairs of the Association and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to such officer.

Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.

Rule 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.

The members serving without pay on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committees are designated as officers of the Association for the purposes, only, of carrying out their duties as members of such committees.


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

Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.

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

Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President.

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.


Unless no ballot is required according to Section 9.9(a), prior to 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 to each credential card issued by the Secretary.

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 attempted 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, where 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.

(c) Candidates for at-large election positions are expected to conduct their campaigns, both privately and publicly, according to the highest standards of decorum and mutual respect.

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. under $50.00,
2. $50.00 to $100.00,
3. $101.00 to $250.00,
4. $251.00 to $500.00, and
5. over $500.00, and

(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 with the accept of conferring tax-exempt status to the contribution to which it would not otherwise be entitled. Such exempt entities 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 not limited 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 campaign or electioneering activities.


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;
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.

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).
(d) 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.
(e) 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 X Finance and Contracts

Section 10.1. Annual Budget.

Rule G-10.1.1 Presentation of Association Budget.
At each regular General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall
present budgets for both the Current Fiscal Year and the
Succeeding Fiscal Year. Current Fiscal Year means the fiscal year
of the Association which has just begun or which is about to begin
at the time when the Assembly is held. Succeeding Fiscal Year
means the year following the Current Fiscal Year.

Rule G-10.1.2. Expense Categories.
(a) Expense estimates in budgets presented by the Board shall
be broken down by major categories or functions in such
manner as the Board shall determine.
(b) The Current Fiscal Year budget shall contain a separate
expense category provision for contingencies, the amount of
which 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.
Income amounts in the budget for the Current Fiscal Year shall
represent the Board’s best estimates of income from all sources.
Income from the Annual Fund as so estimated shall be an amount
which is not more than 7 per cent greater than the actual Annual
Fund income of the fiscal year preceding the Current Fiscal Year.
In the budget for the Succeeding Fiscal Year income from the
Annual Fund shall be estimated at an amount which represents the
Board’s best estimate of the achievable results for such year.

Rule G-10.1.4. Procedures for Budget Consideration.
Any action by a General Assembly with respect to budgets shall be
taken under the following procedure:
(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 shall be filed in writing with a
person or persons designated by the Moderator as early as
possible prior to or during the General Assembly but in any
event on or before the day prior to the Business Session at
which the proposed motion will be in order for adoption. 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 the
motions so filed.
(c) Any action with respect to the budget for the Current Fiscal
Year calling for increased spending in any category shall
provide for equivalent reductions in other categories of
spending and specify the categories in which such
reductions are to be made.
(d) No action may be taken with respect to the Current Fiscal
Year budget which shall be inconsistent with either Rule G-
10.1.2(b) or G-10.1.3.

Rule G-10.1.5. Board of Trustees Report.
At each General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall make an
accounting of its actions taken since the preceding General
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.

Section 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.

The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review are
available on request.

RULE XII Religious Education Credentialing

RULE XIII Regional Organizations

Section C-13.2. Establishment.

The districts shall be nineteen in number and named Ballou
Channing, Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland,
Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New
York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England,
Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific
Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwestern, and
Thomas Jefferson.
Each district shall be composed of the congregations assigned to that district by the Board of Trustees. The boundaries of each district encompass the areas served by its member congregations. 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.

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 XIV Rules

Section 14.4. 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-14.4.2. 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.

RULE XV Amendments

Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendments.

Rule G-15.2.1. Form of Submission.

A proposed amendment to the Bylaws submitted by certified member congregations or a district must include:

(a) the Article and Section which it is proposed to amend or repeal;

(b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the proponents rely; and

(c) other Articles (or Sections) or "G" Rules affected by the proposed amendment and proposed text of any necessary conforming amendments and "G" Rules.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

2010 Annual Reports

UUA Board of Trustees Report
UUA Staff Report
UUA Treasurer's Report
Commission on Appraisal Report
Ministerial Fellowship Committee Report
Religious Education Credentialing Committee Report
UU Service Committee Report
UU United Nations Office Report
UU Women's Federation Report
UU Financial Advisor's Report
Independent Auditors' Report

All available online at
uua.org > About Us > Governance > General Assembly > 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for congregations to complete the online Annual Certification Form and Congregational Poll (instructions to be mailed to congregations in November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of proposed Business Resolutions and Amendments to Bylaws and Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting comments on the Draft Statement of Conscience (Ethical Eating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2011</td>
<td>General Assembly Notice of Meeting (including the Tentative Agenda) and delegate credentials mailed to certified congregations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting comments on the new Congregational Study/Action Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23, 2011</td>
<td>Final Agenda posted online at uua.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22 - 26, 2011</td>
<td>50th UUA General Assembly in Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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