

BUSINESS PROCESS

MINI-ASSEMBLIES

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in General Sessions (formerly known as 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 General Session, and propose amendments to the business item or social witness statement. They are not the place to debate the pros and cons of a proposal. The Board of Trustees or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

Mini-Assembly on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Thursday 3:00pm – 4:15pm | C220-222

Business Mini-Assembly I: Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Thanksgiving Day Resolution

Friday 3:00pm – 4:15pm | Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C

Business Mini-Assembly II: Divestment Resolution

Friday 4:45pm – 6:00PM | Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C

Mini-Assemblies on Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness

Saturday 3:00pm – 4:15pm | Convention Center E160, E161, E162

BUSINESS RESOLUTION

The Proposed Business resolutions will be discussed in a Mini-Assembly in room Union Station Ballroom C of the Convention Center on Friday at 3:00pm. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in Union Station Ballroom C of the Convention Center on Friday at 3:00pm (Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered) and 4:45pm (Divestment from Corporations Complicit in the Violation of Palestinian Rights). After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES 2016-2020

Discussion of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 3:00pm in room C220-222 of the Convention Center. The vote to select one issue for four years of study and action is scheduled for a General Session.

2014 CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE: ESCALATING INEQUALITY

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2014 General Assembly.

ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#314) by 5:00pm on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the Volunteer Office (C111 in the Convention Center) by 5:00pm on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken at the Saturday morning General Session. Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held on Saturday at 3:00pm in rooms E160, E161, E162 of the Convention Center.

BUDGET HEARING

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2016 - 2017 budget Friday at 1:15pm in C220-222 of the Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the Volunteer Office (C111 in the Convention Center) by 5:00pm on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.

Global ENDS/Shared Vision for the Unitarian Universalist Association

- 1.0 Global End
A healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.
- 1.1 Congregations and communities are covenanted, accountable, healthy, and mission driven.
- 1.2 Congregations and communities are better able to achieve their missions and to spread awareness of Unitarian Universalist ideals and principles through their participation in covenanted networks of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.3 Congregations and communities are intentionally inclusive, multigenerational and multicultural.
- 1.4 Congregations and communities engage in partnerships to counter systems of power, privilege and oppression.
- 1.5 Congregations and communities have and use Unitarian Universalist Association resources to deepen the spiritual and religious exploration by people in their communities, to enhance the ministry of their members and to improve their operations.
- 1.6 There is an increase in the number of people served by Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.7 There is an increase in the number of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.8 There is an increase in the number of inspired ordained and lay religious leaders equipped to effectively start and sustain new Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.
- 1.9 Unitarian Universalist institutions are healthy, vital, collaborative partners invested in the future of Unitarian Universalism, its principles and theologies.

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 congregations.

Speaking in General Sessions

Before speaking, you must be recognized by the Moderator. 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** or member of the Board of Trustees may speak; non-delegates, other than members of the Board of Trustees, need the consent of the Moderator or a vote of the Assembly to admit the speaker to the floor. (Such permission is granted only rarely.) Once recognized, identify yourself (name and congregation from which you are a delegate), e.g., “I’m Chris Doe from the UU 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 by speaking only 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.

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 Board of Trustees 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 or in the off-site queue 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 may not 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 Assembly, 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.

DELEGATE GUIDE

Voting

Delegates & Trustees 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 passes or fails. 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 present must support the request to require the counted vote.

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each General Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace if lost, and you may not vote without your card. As a delegate or member of the Board of Trustees, 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 matters on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It's also an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments. Mini-Assemblies are not the place to debate the Pros and Cons of a proposal. In years when the selection of a Congregational Study/Action Issue is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates on ways to garner support for their issue. In years when a vote to adopt a Statement of Conscience is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save time in General Session and permit freer debate than General Sessions do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a Business Resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during General Session debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the bylaw and rule changes listed on the final agenda. All Mini-Assemblies are listed in the program. After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in a General Session, the Board of Trustees 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 Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness may prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in General Session. 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 and in the manner required by 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 Assembly (which includes both the delegates & Trustees) 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 the Assembly 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, Actions of Immediate Witness should address only issues that could not be considered by the Congregational Study/Action Issue process. Consult Article IV, Section 4.16 (c) (1) of the UUA Bylaws for the criteria for an Action of Immediate Witness. Up to three Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the Agenda.

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 5:00pm on Thursday. Then, begin collection of signatures from other delegates.

Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures at the Volunteer Office by 5:00 pm on Friday. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

What happens then? The Commission will review the AIWs to determine if they meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission will select no more than six from among those submitted that 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(c)). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process.

At the Saturday morning General Session, the Assembly (which includes delegates & Trustees) will vote to admit up to three proposed AIWs to the final agenda. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, the Assembly will vote whether to adopt any or all of those three AIWs at a General Session on Sunday.

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 or member of the Board of Trustees may request "Point of Information" from the procedural 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 or member of the Board of Trustees 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 or member of the Board of Trustees 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 Board of Trustees. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each General Session.

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 General Session. 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 or Trustee moves that the Committee of the Whole "rise and report" specifying the agreed upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the General 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.

AGENDA: ORDER OF BUSINESS

General Session I

Thursday 8:15am – 10:15am

- Call to Order
- Reflections
- Review and Adopt Rules
- Welcome New Congregations
- Introduction: Right Relations Team
- Introduction: Chaplains
- Introduction: GA Planning Committee
- Introduction: Youth Caucus
- Introduction: Young Adults@GA
- GA Accessibility
- Commission on Social Witness
- Commission on Appraisal
- Introduction: International Guests
- Singing
- Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists
- Beacon Press Report
- Reverend Dr. William T. Barber, II
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session II

Friday 8:30am – Noon

- Call to Order
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- Right Relations Team Report
- President's Report
- UU Service Committee Report
- UU Women's Federation Report
- Debate and Vote on Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI)
- Singing
- Panel Discussion: Business Resolution on Divestment
- Presentation: Angus MacLean Award
- Annual Program Fund Report
- Presentation: Legacy Society
- Presentation: Two Who Dared: The Sharp's War
- Financial Advisor's Report
- Announcements
- Recess

AGENDA: ORDER OF BUSINESS

General Session III

Saturday 8:30am – Noon

- Call to Order
- Right Relations Team Report
- Debate and Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- Presentation: Distinguished Service Award
- Special Collection to Support Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)
- Singing
- Moderator's Report
- Board of Trustee's Report
- Debate and Vote on Business Resolution on Divestment
- Motion to admit Actions of Immediate Witness to Final Agenda
- Announcements
- Renewing the Covenant Task Force Report
- Recess to Breakout Rooms to respond to Task Force

General Session IV

Sunday 8:00am – 10:00am

- Chalice Lighting
- Call to Order
- Right Relations Team Report
- Debate and Vote on Bylaw on Actions of Immediate Witness at GA 2017 in New Orleans
- Debate and Vote on Business Resolution on Reconsidering Thanksgiving
- Covenanting Communities
- Presentation: President's Award for Volunteer Service
- Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee Report
- Renewing the Covenant Task Force Feedback
- Declare Election Results and Install Newly Elected Trustees, Financial Advisor, and Nominating Committee members
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session V

Sunday 1:15pm – 3:45pm

- Call to Order
- Debate and Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- Singing
- UU College of Social Justice Report
- GA Talk - YA@GA
- Responsive Resolutions (if any)
- Right Relations Team Final Report
- GA New Orleans 2017
- Final Credentials Report
- Reflections
- Recognition of all who made GA possible
- Adjournment

RULES OF PROCEDURE

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 and off-site delegate input. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that at least 99 of the other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Congregational Study/Action Issues (Rule 11) and selection of AIWS for inclusion on the final agenda, no vote will be taken by written ballot unless the Assembly orders a written ballot by a two-thirds vote. Provided a quorum is present at each General Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the Assembly will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates and Trustees voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates and Trustees 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 Board of Trustees will approve the minutes of the General Assembly General 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 Board of Trustees 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, an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), or a proposed amendment must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered in the general 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.

Only the section of particular bylaws that are proposed to be amended may be amended during GA. The remaining text of a bylaw, which may have been printed for the convenience of the reader, may not be amended. The Moderator will determine whether a particular section of text is eligible for amendment.

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, Congregational 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 through equitable recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con and off-site delegates.
- 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 or in the off-site queue and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question is in order after the earlier of (a) 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment and (b) the absence of potential speakers at the pro and con microphones and in the off-site queue.
- d) Time taken at the procedural microphone for procedural questions will not count against Pro or Con debate time as allotted elsewhere in these rules.

Rule 7. Microphones

- a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated "Pro" or "Con" and off-site "Pro" and "Con" queues is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.
- b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone or off-site queue 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 or offsite procedure queue.

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 2016-2017 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing in the Volunteer Office not later than 5:00pm Saturday. All such motions must comply with Rule G-10.1.4. 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(c), which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions; and
- b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(d), 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 in writing of the title and content of his/her Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00pm on Saturday for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in General Sessions 1 through 3. 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 or off-site queue designated for the Congregational Study/ Action Issue for which he/she advocates.

After debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written or electronic ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates and Trustees 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.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 12. UUA Statement of Conscience

In a year in which a UUA Statement of Conscience is proposed, one hour will be allowed for debate. The Commission on Social Witness may recommend for Assembly 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 General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly. Up to twelve minutes will be allowed for the debate on an amendment. The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone in General Session.

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 5:00pm 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(c)(3) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the Volunteer Office by no later than 5:00pm Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness will provide a summary of up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria during Saturday morning's General Session.
- e) Each sponsor of a proposed Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.
- f) Delegates and Trustees will vote by ballot for up to three AIWs that they would like to see added to the final agenda.
- g) After the tellers count the ballots, the CSW chair will make a motion to add to the agenda each of the three proposed AIWs with the most votes. Those that receive a two-thirds vote are admitted to the Final Agenda for a vote at a subsequent General Session.

- h) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- i) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(5). The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone.
- j) Up to twenty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. 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.
- k) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during General Session on Sunday. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(6). Proposed AIWs are not in competition with one another as are proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. Each of the proposed AIWs admitted to the Final Agenda may be adopted or rejected by the delegates & Trustees.

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. Precedence of the Bylaws and Rules

In the event of a conflict between these Rules of Procedure and the Bylaws or Rules of the UUA, the Bylaws and Rules of the UUA take precedence.

Rule 16. Adjournment

The final business session of the 2016 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 3:45PM on Sunday, June 26.

CSAI – 1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1 **Issue:** What is the moral response to climate change? How can congregations work in solidarity with the
2 oppressed? The problems of racism, economic injustice, patriarchy, ageism, and ableism continue. A vision
3 with a plan for environmental justice is needed. Support human rights, care for the wounded, and defend
4 Mother Earth.

5 **Grounding:** The Unitarian Universalist Association has seven principles. All of the principles are connected
6 and all of the principles matter. Member congregations acknowledge an interdependent web of existence.
7 Congregations work together for justice, equity, and compassion with “the goal of world community with
8 peace, liberty, and justice for all.”

9 **Topics For Congregational Study**

- 10 • Conversations about climate change and energy policy have changed during the past ten years. The
11 Union of Concerned Scientists has noted major changes in the global environment. Leaders like Pope
12 Francis discuss climate change and the need for social justice. The world’s human population is now
13 over seven billion. Review the current situation.
- 14 • The world is caught in a series of energy dilemmas. Energy use is essential for human survival but
15 energy production and distribution are identified with environmental problems. Some people
16 consume enormous quantities of energy while others beg for adequate shelter and transportation.
17 Developing nations want to escape from poverty. Major energy corporations have enormous
18 influence. Nations fight to control energy resources.
- 19 • Who can provide all people with an adequate source of power that is clean and safe, accessible and
20 affordable, and sustainable?
- 21 • Review the Earth Charter and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. What’s needed in
22 the energy economy? What delays human progress? How can religious organizations be helpful?
- 23 • The impact of climate change is here and now. How can religious organizations care for climate
24 refugees, the very young and the very old, and for others who need special attention?
- 25 • Unitarian Universalists affirm the worth and dignity of every “person.” Should the Association’s
26 principles be changed to acknowledge the worth and dignity of every “being”?

27 **Topics For Congregational/District Action**

- 28 • Enlighten your community. Work for an energy economy that provides “justice for all.”
- 29 • Support Commit2Respond and other Unitarian Universalist networks and groups that are concerned
30 about social justice and the environment.
- 31 • Be compassionate and helpful. Reduce automobile use while improving access to religious and
32 community programs. Anticipate extreme weather events, floods and droughts, and other crises.
33 Identify resources and be prepared for some challenges. Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and
34 care for trauma victims. Your congregation can lead by example.

35 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 36 • 2015 AIW: “Support a Strong, Compassionate Global Climate Agreement in 2015: Act for a Livable
37 Climate”
- 38 • 2014 Business Resolution : “Fossil Fuel Divestment”
- 39 • 2006 Statement of Conscience: “Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change”

CSAI – 2 A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON RACE

40 **Issue:** The blatant racism directed at President Obama, increased killings of unarmed Black men by police
41 officers, persistent racial inequity, as well as the attacks on the Black Lives Matter Movement show that our
42 country needs a faith community to demonstrate leadership in modeling racial reconciliation through a
43 national conversation on race.

44 We can no longer wait for someone else to figure out how to help us recognize and combat racism, or to effect
45 reconciliation. Our denomination and our nation cry out for guidance towards love and compassion.

46 By now, the names have become all too painfully familiar. Black teens are 21 times more likely to be shot and
47 killed by police than their white peers. Our Faith calls us into leadership on this issue. We have the tools and
48 the will to make a significant impact towards racial reconciliation.

49 We have much to learn from one another. We have much to teach the world. Let us begin the conversation to
50 bring love and healing to the world. Together we can.

51 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism:** Principles 1, 2, 6 & 7 direct us to work for a just and compassionate
52 world. Reconciliation among racial and ethnic groups is vital for realizing this goal.

53 **Topics for Congregational Study:**

- 54 • What is the definition of race? Racism? Prejudice? Discrimination? Bigotry?
- 55 • What was your earliest realization of race?
- 56 • How has race informed your life choices? Where you live? Work? Go to school? Shop?
- 57 • Has the US been complicit in promoting racism through some of its national policies (immigration,
58 internment camps, slave codes, Indian Appropriation Act, etc.)?
- 59 • Do you think people are born racist? Why or why not?
- 60 • Do you believe we can ever eradicate racism? Why or why not?
- 61 • What hopes and fears do you have around racial reconciliation?

62 **Possible Congregational/District Actions:**

63 Intra- and inter-congregational guided conversation series on race

- 64 • Invite speakers from the Black Lives Matter and other movements to address congregations and
65 districts.
- 66 • Increased implementation of curriculum and use of resources available to congregations through the
67 Multicultural Growth and Witness office, and other sources.
- 68 • Partner with local congregations to jointly and separately promote racial reconciliation.

69 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 70 • 2015 AIW: "Support the Black Lives Matter Movement"
- 71 • 2013 SOC: "Immigration as a Moral Issue"
- 72 • 2013 AIW: "Condemn the Racist Mistreatment of Young People of Color by Police"

CSAI – 3 ENDING GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

73 **Issue:** Gun violence in our country is epidemic. There are significant, societal, demographic and racial issues
74 to investigate. Our American gun culture must be addressed. There are no simple answers as the NRA would
75 suggest – we need to listen, learn, and act.

76 **Narrative:** The media reports gun deaths daily. There is much talk about assault style weapons being the
77 problem, but most gun deaths occur with handguns. Too often we hear about mass shootings, Tucson, Aurora,
78 Newtown... Then what follows is a public discussion of the NRA's strident positions. We need to look at all
79 issues factually; where the gun homicide rates are the highest, we need to act. The Black gun homicide rate is
80 ten times that of White, Latino, and Asian-American gun deaths (1). The White gun suicide rate is much higher
81 than the homicide rate, while the reverse is true in the Black community. Is this an urban problem, yes (2)!
82 Yet some cities have low gun murder rates – El Paso Texas is 75% Latino with significant poor neighborhoods
83 (barrios) and is considered one of the safest cities in America. We can study the facts and use this information
84 to save lives. How do we compare with the rest of the world? We have the highest First World country gun
85 death rate (3).

86 A Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) will address many parts of this very large gun violence problem.
87 Easy answers – no! Is this a poverty issue, poor education, lack of opportunity, easy access to guns, etc. – we
88 don't know which is most important. Many academic studies have conflicting results. How do gang activity
89 and domestic violence affect gun homicide rates? We must gather the facts, educate ourselves, prepare an
90 action plan and do some good.

91 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism:** Our first UUA Principle states: We covenant to affirm and promote the
92 inherent worth and dignity of every person. Clearly, too many lives are being lost to gun violence.

93 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 94 • What experiences have your congregation members had with gun violence?
- 95 • Explore best practices – what cities have the lowest gun homicide rates and why?
- 96 • Explore gang violence reduction programs – which are the most effective at reducing gun deaths?
- 97 • How are gun violence issues grounded in UUA Principles?
- 98 • What are the best domestic violence reduction programs in your area?

99 **Possible Congregational/Cluster/Districts/Regional Actions**

- 100 • Collaborate with churches (UU and others) in your area that have significant Black membership – listen
101 to these folks – ask respectful questions.
- 102 • Submit a program proposal for your district or regional assembly or the UUA GA that addresses these
103 issues – using a diverse (color and age) panel to discuss what we are doing and should be doing.
- 104 • Work with Educators – develop RE programs for children, adult, and small group ministries.
- 105 • If you live in a state that has a UU Legislative Ministry, find out what they are doing about gun
106 violence and/or suggest that they get involved with this issue – most new gun control laws arise at the
107 local level.

108 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 109 • AIW 2015: "Support the Black Lives Matter Movement"
- 110 • AIW 2014: "Affirming Congregational Commitment on Gun Violence Prevention"
- 111 • AIW 2013: "Condemn the Racist Mistreatment of Young People of Color by Police"
- 112 • SOC 2005: "Criminal Justice and Prison Reform"
- 113 • AIW 2004: "Renew the Assault Weapons Ban"
- 114 • AIW 2000: "Handgun Legislation"
- 115 • General Resolution 1991: "Gun Control"
- 116 • General Resolution 1976: "Hand Guns"

CSAI – 4 THE CORRUPTION OF OUR DEMOCRACY

117 **Issue:** As corporations use “corporate personhood” and “money as speech” for their interests rather than
118 the people’s needs, can a constitutional amendment be passed to protect us? Could this further Unitarian
119 Universalist work for social and environmental justice and help protect the health and safety of the people and
120 the planet?

121 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism:** Our Seven Principles give us spiritual grounding to put our faith
122 into action. Our General Assembly considered CSAI proposals in 2010 and 2014 on “Revitalizing Democracy”
123 and passed AIWs in 2011 and 2013 on amending the constitution. It is time for a full study of a possible 28th
124 amendment.

125 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 126 • Unitarian Universalists have identified escalating inequality, racial justice, voting rights, immigration,
127 reproductive justice, marriage equality and more as major moral concerns. Now climate change looms
128 large. Could passing an amendment establishing that only human beings, not corporations, unions
129 and other artificial entities, have constitutional rights, and money is not free speech, benefit these
130 important issues?
- 131 • What does “corporate personhood” mean and why is it important to address that in addition to “money
132 as speech” in a proposed constitutional amendment?
- 133 • How have Supreme Court decisions over the past two hundred years created this “legal fiction”?
- 134 • How does treating corporations and other artificial entities as persons violate our Unitarian
135 Universalist principles?
- 136 • Is a moral political revolution needed to address voting rights, gerrymandering, voting methods, and
137 the possibility of public financing of campaigns?

138 **Possible Congregational/District Actions**

- 139 • Hold forums in your congregation on the various proposals to overturn Citizens United v. FEC and
140 other Supreme Court decisions giving moneyed interests sway in this country.
- 141 • Show the 30-minute film “Legalize Democracy” and discuss how this supports our Seven Principles and
142 affects all ages.
- 143 • Encourage your congregation to pass a resolution for Move to Amend (movetoamend.org) and
144 endorse it.
- 145 • Encourage your City Council and County Commission to pass a resolution for Move to Amend, and
146 work to place a ballot initiative or non-binding referendum on your city or county ballot, so all voters
147 can speak out on this important issue. Invite youth to participate in this effort.
- 148 • Educate your congregation about the Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend. Use the issue of climate
149 change to reach out to other faiths.
- 150 • Join your UU State Action Network, or start one if your state does not yet have one, and encourage
151 them to include climate change as a core issue and the amendment movement to help address it.

152 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 153 • 2014 CSAI: “Escalating Inequality”
- 154 • 2014 “Business Resolution: Fossil Fuel Divestment”
- 155 • 2013 AIW: “Amend the Constitution: Corporations Are Not Persons; Money Is Not Speech”
- 156 • 2011 AIW: “Overturn Citizens United; Support Free Speech for People”
- 157 • 2009 AIW: “Advocate Pending Legislation toward Clean, Honest and Fair Elections”
- 158 • 2007 “Responsive Resolution: Voting Rights for Communities of Color”
- 159 • 2004 Statement of Conscience: “Civil Liberties”
- 160 • 2000 AIW: “Campaign Finance Reform”

ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS AT GA 2017 IN NEW ORLEANS

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 3:00pm in Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

We are seeking to create a Justice Focused General Assembly in 2017 where we will have more worship, witness, and service opportunities with local partners. The UUA Board of Trustees, General Assembly Planning Committee, the Office of Multicultural Growth and Witness, the Commission on Social Witness, and the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal in New Orleans request that the delegates vote to amend the Bylaws to suspend the AIW process in 2017, which will allow us an opportunity to practice different models of immediate witness. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees moves to amend section 4.16 of the Bylaws to read as follows:

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

- 162 (a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters may be admitted to the agenda by a
163 regular General Assembly.
- 164 (b) Prior to ~~[2013]~~ 2018, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the agenda.
- 165 (c) (1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness is one concerned with a significant action, event
166 or development, the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to be addressed by a
167 UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.
- 168 (2) **[Beginning with General Assembly 2013,]** No more than three General Assembly Actions of
169 Immediate Witness may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly.

This amendment makes no changes to our current AIW process other than its suspension at GA 2017.

THANKSGIVING DAY RECONSIDERED

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 3:00pm in Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C.

170 **Background:**

171 The Ballou-Channing District has submitted the Business Resolution "Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered."

172 **Business Resolution:**

173 WHEREAS the year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the ship "Mayflower" in the region that is
174 now known as New England; and

175 WHEREAS concern has been expressed by Native American tribal leaders, by human rights advocates, by
176 environmental justice advocates, and by others, about the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the
177 colonization of New England; and

178 WHEREAS several of the New England congregations that were established during the 1600s continue today
179 as Unitarian Universalist congregations; and NOTING the role of Unitarian Universalists in developing the
180 holiday that is known as "the American Thanksgiving Day;" and

181 NOTING the desire of Unitarian Universalists to work for peace and justice for all of the world's people;

182 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly encourages all Unitarian Universalists to enter a time
183 of education, careful reflection, and healing, for the years 2016-2021. We ask that special attention be given to
184 the suffering, indignity, and loss that native peoples have suffered since the early 1600s; and

185 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks the President of the Unitarian Universalist
186 Association to report to the 2017 General Assembly on national, tribal, and congregational plans for both the
187 400th anniversary of the "Mayflower" voyage and the 400th anniversary of the first harvest festival in Plymouth
188 Colony; and

189 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks the President of the Association to work with
190 congregations, districts, camps, and theological schools, to make recommendations for the Americans who
191 wish to observe what is often called "the first Thanksgiving Day in America;" and

192 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage Unitarian Universalists to work with all of the religious groups
193 that trace their religious roots to the Pilgrims and the Puritans. When we confront the past that we share with
194 others, we ask for wisdom with charity as we try to better understand the people and the environment of the
195 1600s. To prepare for the future, we must make peace with our past. As we approach the Plymouth Colony
196 quadricentennial dates, we ask for religious education programs that acknowledge the Radical Reformation
197 and the religious Dissenters and Separatists of the 1600s. The story of religious Dissenters and Separatists
198 is part of our Unitarian Universalist story, and their influence is still with us. We ask for religious education
199 programs that affirm the spiritual wisdom of Native American leaders. In today's world, we know that we are
200 part of an interdependent web of all existence. With this awareness in mind, we ask for a time of truth and
201 reconciliation for all Americans for the years 2016-2021.

DIVESTMENT FROM CORPORATIONS COMPLICIT IN THE VIOLATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 4:45pm in Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C.

203 Summary:

204 Israel's nearly half-century-old military and governance systems for maintaining its occupation dominate all
205 aspects of Palestinians' daily lives, leaving them powerless, as a people without a country, without the rule of
206 law, and without rights, including the most fundamental human and legal rights.

207 These abuses violate the basic principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Unitarian Universalists should
208 therefore neither support nor seek to profit from such abuses. This Resolution calls upon the Unitarian
209 Universalist Association to act in accordance with its principles by divesting and refraining from purchasing
210 securities of five major corporations that directly profit from or support the occupation and its abuses of
211 Palestinian human rights: Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and G4S.

212 These corporations are each complicit in severe abuses of human and legal rights. They supply the Israeli
213 military with tools and services for demolition of homes by the military, biometric identification, expansion of
214 Israeli settlements, surveillance of Palestinians, seizure of Palestinian farms and orchards, and prisons that hold
215 children and political persons without due process.

216 Other major religious denominations have acted in accordance with their consciences to end their indirect
217 support of the abuses of Palestinian human rights under the Israeli occupation. The Presbyterian Church
218 USA is divesting from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, and Motorola Solutions; and the United Church of Christ
219 is divesting from these same companies, plus G4S. Many other religious organizations have made similar
220 commitments to divest.

221 Unitarian Universalists have expressed their opposition to Israel's military occupation in many ways over many
222 years. The General Assembly called for an end to the occupation in a General Resolution adopted in 1982 and
223 also in an Action of Immediate Witness adopted in 2002. It is time for Unitarian Universalists to cease investing
224 in companies that profit from human rights abuses and to join with other faith and secular groups in helping
225 to end the human rights abuses suffered by the Palestinian people.

226 Therefore, this Resolution calls upon the UUA to: (a) refrain from purchasing shares in Caterpillar, Motorola
227 Solutions, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and G4S; (b) engage in shareholder activism with these
228 corporations as it deems appropriate; and (c) divest from ownership of stock in these corporations in
229 accordance with its fiduciary responsibilities if the process of shareholder activism fails despite reasonable
230 efforts. This Resolution will have accomplished its work when these corporations end their direct profiting
231 from or support for the human and legal rights violations associated with the Israeli occupation.

232 Text of the Resolution

233 WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant by our First and Second Principles to honor the
234 inherent worth and dignity of all persons and to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human
235 relations; and by our Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Principles to uphold the use of the democratic process, the goals
236 of peace, justice, and world community, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and

237 WHEREAS, Israel's five decades of military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem¹
238 deprives Palestinians of their humanity, while dehumanizing their occupiers. Examples of such abuse include:

1 See:

a) B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories,
<http://www.btselem.org/>

b) Amnesty International – Israel and Palestine, <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Israel-and-Palestine>

c) Al Haq, Palestinian Human Rights Organization, <http://www.alhaq.org/>

d) United Nations Human Rights Council, "2014 Report on the situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories," <http://www.refworld.org/docid/531439c44.htmlh>

e) For information on treatment of children in Israeli military detention, see Military Court Watch at
<http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/and No Way to Treat a Child at http://www.nowaytotreatachild.org/>

PROPOSED BUSINESS RESOLUTION

239 the collective punishment of entire families and towns for actions by individuals; demolition of homes;
240 imprisonment of men, women, and children for months and longer, often in solitary confinement, without
241 charges or trial—the most basic attributes of due process; cruel and arbitrary restrictions on movement,
242 preventing married couples from living together; separating family members from each other; preventing
243 people from leaving their villages; causing truckloads of locally farmed produce to rot after standing for
244 hours in the summer sun at checkpoints; diversion and draining of aquifers; preventing farming; and severely
245 limiting access to water, health care and education;²

246 WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists recognize our interdependency and connections with Palestinians and
247 Israelis by virtue of our humanity and the fact that our United States tax dollars³ and certain corporations in
248 which we invest provide essential support for the occupation; and

249 WHEREAS, the UUA guidelines for Socially Responsible Investment state, “We also favor investments in
250 companies that demonstrate positive environmental practices; respect for human rights, labor rights, and
251 other legal and ethical standards; . . . We seek to avoid companies that perform poorly in these areas;” and

252 WHEREAS, in 1985, the UUA General Assembly passed a Business Resolution calling on the UUA and Unitarian
253 Universalist congregations to divest from corporations doing business in South Africa to help end the human
254 rights abuses of the apartheid regime, now recognized as an action that helped restore the dignity and
255 humanity of all South Africans, including white South Africans;⁴ and

256 WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have expressed their opposition to Israel’s military occupation and its
257 associated human rights abuses in many ways over many years, including passage by the UUA General
258 Assembly of a General Resolution in 1982 and an Action of Immediate Witness in 2002;⁵ and

259 WHEREAS, Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola, and G4S profit directly from and support
260 the occupation and its associated abuses. Caterpillar provides Israel’s military with specialized bulldozers,
261 including unmanned bulldozers, to demolish Palestinian civilian homes and property. HP Inc. and Hewlett
262 Packard Enterprise provide IT services and systems to the Israeli military as well as identification systems
263 to monitor and control the Palestinian population. Motorola Solutions provides invisible radar fences,
264 surveillance, and communication equipment to Israel’s army. G4S provides security equipment and services to

2 The occupied Palestinian territories are defined in this Resolution and by recognized authorities as including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

a) United Nations resolutions consider the Occupied Palestinian Territory to include East Jerusalem and call for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the territories. See United Nations Resolution 242 at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/un242.htm>

b) Israel is considered an occupying power of Gaza because of its almost total control over the borders, sea, and air space over the Gaza Strip, and its total control over the movement of all people and things to and from the Gaza Strip. See Amnesty International information at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE15/007/2009/en/>. The people of Gaza are imprisoned in a territorial area that is smaller than the City of Detroit, Michigan.

3 The United States Government currently provides about \$3.7 billion annually in military aid to Israel. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>.

4 UUs have supported three statements on Israel/Palestine:

a) In 1982, the UUA General Assembly passed a General Resolution which in part called for “Opposition to the creation and maintenance of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and continued commitment to the United Nations Resolution 242 under which Israel should withdraw from lands conquered in 1967.” See <http://www.uua.org/statements/united-states-policy-relation-israeli-palestinian-arab-conflict>

b) In 2002, the UUA General Assembly passed an Action of Immediate Witness which called for: “Freedom from occupation and equal rights for all, including the right to exist in peace and security; Opposition to Israeli settlements, land confiscations, house demolitions, and other violations of international law; Opposition to all attacks on civilians, whether by suicide bombers, F-16 or helicopter gunships or any other means.” See <http://www.uua.org/statements/toward-peace-and-justice-middle-east>

c) In 2002, 240 Unitarian Universalist ministers signed a petition calling for consideration of the peace proposal by Saudi Arabia that included Israel’s return to the 1967 borders. See <http://uujme.org/home/Home/Resolutions-of-the-Unitarian-Universalist-Associat/2002-Petition-from-UU-Minister>

5 For comprehensive and current information on the involvement of corporations named in the resolution, see the American Friends Service Committee database, at <http://investigate.afsc.org/>

265 Israel's prisons and interrogation centers, West Bank settlements, and military checkpoints;⁶ and
266 WHEREAS, the UUA's investments in these corporations make it complicit to the extent it seeks to profit from
267 violations of our basic Unitarian Universalist principles and values;⁷ and
268 WHEREAS, many of the abuses of Palestinian rights, such as those detailed above, are illegal under
269 international law, and Israel's annexation, confiscation, and colonization of Palestinian lands are illegal under
270 the United Nations Charter and the Fourth Geneva Convention;⁸ and
271 WHEREAS, there will not be real peace and security for the people of Israel while Israel continues to violate the
272 fundamental rights of Palestinians; and
273 WHEREAS, other major religious denominations and organizations have acted in accordance with their
274 consciences by committing to end their investments in the abuse of Palestinian rights. The Presbyterian
275 Church (USA) is divesting from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, and Motorola Solutions; and the United Church
276 of Christ is divesting from these same companies, plus G4S. The Friends Fiduciary Corporation, eleven
277 conferences of the Methodist Church, the World Council of Churches, the Church of England, the Church of
278 Ireland, and the Australian Council of Churches are divesting or supporting divestment from one or more
279 corporations complicit in the human rights abuses of Israel's occupation; and
280 WHEREAS, we as Unitarian Universalists seek to join with other religious and secular organizations, as proud
281 leaders and supporters of an international movement to end the abuses of Palestinian rights by selective
282 divestment from specific corporations.
283 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to refrain from purchasing
284 securities of Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S; and
285 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UUA shall direct Fund fiduciaries to engage in shareholder activism with
286 Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Motorola Solutions,⁹ as deemed appropriate by them,
287 and divest from them in such manner and at such times as they deem to be in the best interests of the UUA
288 if shareholder activism fails to achieve voluntary compliance after reasonable effort. Fund fiduciaries shall
289 exercise their discretion in determining the appropriate balance between shareholder activism and the
290 magnitude and urgency of the human and legal rights crises that divestment is intended to help end, with
291 due regard for the UUA's determination to end its investments in Israel's perpetuation of these abuses. This
292 Resolution will have accomplished its work when these corporations cease to profit from or end their support
293 for the human and legal rights violations described above; and
294 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the President or the Treasurer of the UUA shall provide a progress report to
295 each General Assembly beginning in 2017 and each General Assembly thereafter, on the status of divestment
296 efforts and/or shareholder activism, until the earlier of either (a) the above-referenced corporations cease
297 supporting human and legal rights abuses in occupied Palestine; or (b) the UUA divests all securities in those
298 corporations.

6 See the 1985 UUA Business Resolution on opposition to apartheid in South Africa at <http://www.uua.org/statements/uua-opposition-apartheid>

7 As of December 31, 2015, the UUA Common Endowment Fund held stock in Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Motorola Solutions, but did not hold stock in G4S.

8 The United Nations Security Council has passed more than thirty resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories including East Jerusalem and condemning the transfer of Israeli citizens into the occupied territories, the latter being a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. See <http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/page.php?id=w5Vc8BWPAQa401322A5Bh8sJaEXA>.

9 The Fund listed no holdings in G4S at the time this Resolution was submitted.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dorothy Holmes

Dorothy Evans Holmes, Ph. D., is a practicing Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst in Bluffton, SC, having retired from The George Washington University in 2011 where she was a professor and Director of the Professional Psy. D. Program. She is known for establishing pioneering professional psychology programs (e.g., the psychology internship program in the Department of Psychiatry, Howard University Hospital, that was the first accredited psychology internship program in an historically Black university), and for restoring morale and resources to academic programs stressed by diminishing central administrative support. A UU since the late 1970's, Dorothy has always been drawn to the church's social justice mission and its embrace and celebration of every soul's dignity. These church covenants are what have animated her various service roles (e.g., ministerial relations, music and worship programming, board service) – at All Souls Church, Unitarian, Washington, DC (through 2011), and now at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah, GA.

Richard Jacke

Richard Jacke has been a member at East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue, WA, since 1981, and served as president and with 20+ committees. He co-chairs the Social Justice Coordinating Council and serves with the diversity teams.

He served as president of the Puget Sound Unitarian Universalist Council and the Pacific Northwest District. Richard currently chairs the Open UUA Committee, and served as chair of the Commission on Social Witness, and Vice Chair of the Annual Program Fund.

A founder and president of the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Justice Network, he is also active in interfaith and justice organizations in the wider community.

Richard is excited about changes taking place within the Association and would like to help guide those changes to the best possible outcomes.

Denise Rimes

Denise Rimes is a thirteen-year member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, Virginia. She was raised in the Jewish tradition but, as a religion major in college (long, long ago), she felt drawn to the teachings and principles of Unitarian Universalism after the 9/11 tragedies.

She has served in a variety of leadership roles, in her congregation and in the broader denomination. Her most recent involvement includes:

- Southeast District Ministerial Search Representative (2011-present)
- President of the Southeast District (2012-2015)
- Member, Board of Review, Unitarian Universalist Association
- President, District Presidents' Association (2015-2017)

She lives and works in Richmond, Virginia and is married with two daughters and three grandchildren, to all of whom she credits her current hair color.

Elandria Williams

Elandria Williams is a lifelong UU born and raised in Powell, TN. She has been a member of Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, TN since she was able to join. She's been a youth advisor, young adult leader, regional organizing consultant for the UU Young Adult and Campus Ministry Office, and trainer and consultant with the Youth Office and Identity Based Ministries. She cut her teeth as a member of the Thomas Jefferson District's transformation team as the only youth member and then as a board member for the district. She has gone on to serve two terms for DRUUMM SC as GA coordinator, help co-ordinate Groundwork for the UUA, serve on the advisory committee for the Fahs Collaborative and is presently on the Presidential Search Committee. Professionally she is on the organizational leadership team at the Highlander Research and Education Center and coordinates

the Southern Grassroots Economies Project, co-edits a project and book called Beautiful Solutions, and helps run Governance and economics schools. She is on the board of the Appalachian Studies Association, the US Solidarity Economy Network, and the Democracy at Work Institute. She also is a member of the Black Lives Matter Knoxville chapter, a BALLE fellow, a member the Black Lives of UUism and has been an organizer and community leader since she was in high school.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Lucia Santini Field

Lucia B. Santini Field is Managing Director of Boston Trust & Investment Management Company/Walden Asset Management. She is a member of the Investment Committee, ESG Research and Engagement Committee, and chairs the Audit and Risk Management Committee. Lucia holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) designation and is a member of the CFA Institute and Boston Security Analysts Society.

Lucia earned a B.A. from Connecticut College, cum laude, and an M.B.A from Boston University. She has served on the Boards of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Church of the Larger Fellowship, and the Liberal Religious Charitable Society. She has also served on the UUA's Investment Committee and Socially Responsible Investing Committee, as well as the Finance Committee of the town of Wrentham.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Randy Burnham

Dr. Randy Burnham is a member of The Unitarian Church in Westport (TUCW), CT. He is a graduate of Earlham College (B.A) and Purdue University (Ph.D., Clinical Psychology), and is in private practice. He lives with his wife Linda Hudson in Westport and both of his children are active UUs. He was a member of the New England Regional Sub-Committee on Credentialing (RSCC) and is presently on the Central East Regional Group (CERG) Nominating Committee. At TUCW, he's been Chairperson of the Board, and on numerous other committees and task forces. Present involvements include: Committee on Ministry, Stewardship, Small Group Ministry, as well as the Men's Choir. He is delighted and honored to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Ken Wagner

Ken Wagner has served on the Nominating Committee since 2013. He is the former president of the District Presidents Association, the Clara Barton District of the UUA, and of First Parish Church of Stow & Acton.

Ken has been on the Executive Steering Committee of Allies for Racial Equity and is currently co-president elect of that organization. He was one of the founding members of the New England Region's AR/AO/MC Transformation team called GRACE and continues to serve with that group.

Ken has a law degree from the University of Wisconsin and lives with Laura in Marlborough, MA. They celebrate life with four children and two grandchildren.

Amanda Weatherspoon

Amanda Weatherspoon is a third-year seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. As an activist, Amanda is a proud member of Black Lives Matter Bay Area and studies Black Liberation and Womanist Theology. Amanda hopes to pursue Human Rights work both domestically and internationally and is currently pursuing ordination through the UUA. As a queer-black-woman, Amanda hopes to further explore the intersections of race, class, and gender in the pursuit of liberation of all people. Serving Unitarian Universalism nationally will provide her with the opportunity to learn from and with those who are directly shaping this movement.