

## MINI-ASSEMBLIES

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in General 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.

### **Proposed Statement of Conscience**

Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Convention Center 111C

**Business Mini-Assembly 1:** Bylaw amendment regarding voting and elections (Sections 9.9, 9.10, 9.11 and Rules G-9.11.1, G-9.11.2, and G-9.11.3)

Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Convention Center 111C

**Business Mini-Assembly 2:** Bylaw amendment regarding preliminary fellowship (Section 11.3)

Thursday 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Convention Center 111C

## BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies (schedule above). After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

## PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

Discussion of the Proposed Statement of Conscience takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in room 111C of the Convention Center. The discussion and vote to adopt the Statement of Conscience is scheduled for the General Session on Friday.

## 2018 CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE: UNDOING INTERSECTIONAL WHITE SUPREMACY

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2018 General Assembly. A workshop on the topic will be offered Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in room 100C of the Convention Center.

## BUDGET HEARING

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers will conduct a hearing on the 2019 - 2020 budget on Friday at 12:15 p.m. in 111C 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 (402B in the Convention Center) by 5:00pm on Friday, for consideration Saturday.

## Global ENDS/Shared Vision for the UUA

- 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. Focus on substantive contributions. 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.

### Discussion and 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.

## Voting

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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

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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 discussion and 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. 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

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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

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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

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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 and the Commission on Social Witness's published criteria, available at [uua.org/planning-aiw](http://uua.org/planning-aiw). 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 at the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) booth in the Exhibit Hall or request one from [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org). Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth or to [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org) for posting by 5:00pm on Thursday (Pacific time). See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

# DELEGATE GUIDE

**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(c)). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process.

From Friday afternoon until 2:00 on Saturday, delegates may vote for up to three (3) proposed AIWs that they would like to add to the final agenda. Delegates will receive an email with instructions on how to review and vote to select the three AIWs to be considered, and voting forms will be available online and in the Exhibit Hall. At the Saturday General Session, the Assembly (which includes delegates & Trustees) will vote to admit the three (3) top vote-getters from among the proposed AIWs to the final agenda. The Assembly will vote whether to adopt any or all of those three AIWs during the same General 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 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 part of a motion/business item? Time constraints preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered in General Session. Preliminary work on agenda items are 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 REVISED JUNE 13

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

## Opening Ceremony & Worship: "Coming Home"

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- Music
- Banner Parade
- Welcome
- Singing
- Chalice Lighting
- Call to Worship
- Singing
- Call to Order
- The Empty Chair
- Prayer
- Singing
- Introduction: YA@GA and GA Youth
- Introduction: Chaplains
- Introduction: Right Relationship Team
- Introduction: Accessibility
- Introduction: Safety Team
- Closing Words
- Singing

Friday, June 21, 2019

## General Session I

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Review and Adopt Rules of Procedure
- Co-Moderators' Report
- Financial Advisor's Report
- President's Report
- Collection: Side with Love
- 2015 Climate Justice Resolution Report

Friday, June 21, 2019

## General Session I - Continued

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- Consent Agenda
  - Bylaw Amendments to sections 5.11 (a) (1), 7.6 (b), 11.3, 11.5, and 11.7 to changing final fellowship to full fellowship
  - Bylaw Amendment to section 5.2 (b) to remove in odd numbered years
  - Amendment to Rule G-9.13.1 to modernize for electronic vote and clarify election preparation by Secretary
  - Amendment to Rule G-9.13.2 to modernize for electronic vote and randomize the order of candidate names for election
  - Amendment to Rule G-9.13.3 to modernize for electronic vote and remove "on a ballot"
  - Amendment to Rule G-9.13.4 to provide for mailed paper ballots in elections
  - Amendment to Rule G-9.13.5 to clarify voting at General Assembly
  - Bylaw amendment to section 9.6 to increase number of petitions for nominations to 50 congregations from at least 3 of the regions of the Association
  - Ballou Channing Merger Resolution
- Consider Bylaw amendment regarding preliminary fellowship (Section 11.3)
- Consider Bylaw amendment regarding voting and elections (Sections 9.9, 9.10, 9.11 and Rules G-9.11.1, G-9.11.2, and G-9.11.3)
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Report
- Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Report
- Commission on Social Witness Report and Introduction to Actions of Immediate Witness
- Consider Statement of Conscience: Democracy Uncorrupted
- Closing Words
- Recess

# AGENDA: ORDER OF BUSINESS REVISED JUNE 13

Friday, June 21, 2019

## Theme Program & Conversations I: Redeeming the Promise of Our Faith

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- led by the Commission on Institutional Change

Saturday, June 22, 2019

## Theme Program & Conversations II: The Heart of Our Faith

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- led by the UUA Board of Trustees

Saturday, June 22, 2019

## General Session II

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- Call to Order
- Report from Chaplains
- Report from the Right Relationship Team
- Report from the Safety Team
- Elections for Board of Trustees, Commission on Appraisal, Commission on Social Witness, General Assembly Planning Committee, and Nominating Committee
- Motion to Admit Actions of Immediate Witness to Final Agenda
- Consideration of Actions of Immediate Witness
- Beacon Press Social Impact
- Responsive Resolutions
- Closing Words
- Recess

Saturday, June 22, 2019

## Saturday Closing Ceremony: Saying Yes to the Power of We

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Convention Center Hall BC

- Singing
- Chalice Lighting
- Homily
- Choir
- Presentation: Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism
- Choir
- Presentation Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education
- Choir
- Presentation: President's Award for Volunteer Service
- Choir
- Presentation: Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Commitment, Promise & Practice Campaign
- Music
- Installation of Elected Volunteers
- Prayer
- Song
- Framing Our Time Together
- Singing
- Invitation: General Assembly 2020 in Providence, RI
- Recognition of All Who Made General Assembly Possible
- Singing
- Final Credential Report
- Choir
- Extinguishing the Chalice
- Adjournment

# LETTER FROM THE CO-MODERATORS

We welcome all attendees (delegates and non-delegates alike) to General Assembly 2019. This year's General Assembly will be a beautiful blend of a General Assembly and a General Conference (an historic tradition of open-ended shared theological exploration from the Unitarian and Universalist traditions), providing us with an opportunity to do deep faith-rooted reflection, contemplation, and discernment. We will consider who we are as a faith, who we want to be, and how our bylaws, policies, procedures, and practices help (and hinder) us.

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. During this time of rapid change, the collective practice of our faith is evolving and adapting to follow that path. General Assembly 2019 has new elements that will help us begin to move through the journey, including streamlined business sessions and deep discussion groups to help explore and strengthen "the power of we."

Having been successful last year, the Board, GA Planning Committee, and UUA staff, have again created a Community Safety Team to mitigate our contact with police. We will continue trying new ways of voting and holding discussions, intentionally setting time aside for deliberation and collective conversations. Finally, we are embarking on changing our bylaws to make them more liberating and less confining.

Continuing our efforts of last year, we have again set aside times for intentional conversations, this time listed on the program grid as "Theme Program and Conversations." We ask that all attendees (on-site and off-site) participate in these conversations. A study guide will be available after General Assembly and we are depending on attendees to help bring these conversations home to their congregations and communities.

We continue to adapt and modernize our bylaws this year, some of which will be addressed during the business agenda. And we are introducing a new practice to the GA business agenda, one that the board has used for many years now: that of affirming a consent agenda. The consent agenda groups routine business and reports into one agenda item that can be approved in one action rather than multiple separate motions. The delegates will have the opportunity to review and approve the consent agenda during Friday's general session.

In the months to come the board will be selecting a new Moderator Search Committee. This committee will be tasked with bringing to the board the name(s) of those they recommend the board nominate to the 2020 General Assembly agenda for consideration and vote into the position of Moderator. We anticipate with joy learning who our successor(s) will be.

Thank you for joining us in the business of living our faith.

In Faith,  
Mr. Barb Greve and Elandria Williams

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

## **RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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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.

The Moderator may propose a single consent agenda motion consisting of items that have received no proposed amendments at the appropriate Mini-Assembly or items that are otherwise deemed appropriate by the Moderator. The consent agenda motion will be admitted if approved by majority vote and will be considered first on the agenda. Once admitted, the consent agenda is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support to be adopted.

## **RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING**

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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 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. 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**

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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**

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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**

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Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion will not be in order until there has been at least 15 minutes of discussion, if that much is

needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. The Moderators may, at their discretion, entertain a motion to amend the main motion before 15 minutes of discussion has taken place.

Amendments to a business resolution, a bylaw, a rule, a Statement of Conscience, 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**

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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. 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 2 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) 30 minutes are 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. This time includes time devoted to discussing any amendments to the proposed amendment. Before debate begins, time will be provided for people to informally discuss the agenda item with others sitting around them; this informal discussion time will not count towards the 30-minute limit. Time for members of the Board of Trustees to explain proposals will not count towards the 30-minute limit. Motions to refer or table the question will be in order only after 15 minutes of debate, as long as that much



discussion is needed. Any motion to extend the time or debate must be made from the procedural microphone before time for debate expires. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between people who are in favor of the motion and people who have concerns with the motion through equitable recognition of speakers at microphones designed “Pro” and “Con” and off-site delegates in “Pro” and “Con” queues.

- 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 whether on-site or offsite, and 10 minutes for discussion has not expired. However, a motion to call the previous question is in order if there has been at least 5 minutes of discussion concerning the main motion and there are no speakers at either the Pro or Con microphones, whether on-site or off-site.
- d) Time taken at the Procedure microphone for procedural questions will not count against pro or con discussion time until 30 minutes has expired.

## **RULE 7. MICROPHONES**

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- 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 to raise concerns with the motions. Concerns raised at the “Con” microphone should be substantial enough that the speaker is not ready to support the motion on the table.
- 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 off-site “Procedure” queue.

## **RULE 8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, and at the Moderator’s discretion may from time to time 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 the Presiding Officer 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, discussion, or delay.

## **RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION**

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Any motion concerning the 2019–2020 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 no later than 5:00 PM Friday, June 21. 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**

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A Resolution or Action not on the Final Agenda may be considered only under the following circumstance:

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 General Assembly.

The author of a Responsive Resolution must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of the Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 4:30 PM on Friday, June 21 for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in General Session I .

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

## **RULE 11. 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 15 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 as described in Rule 5. 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 12. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS**

- a) An Action of Immediate Witness can be submitted by any delegate. The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) Actions of Immediate Witness must be filed at the Commission on Social Witness booth in the exhibit area or emailed to [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org) by 5:00 PM Thursday, PDT. To be considered by delegates, proposed AIWs must meet the CSW's published criteria, available at [www.uua.org/planning-aiw](http://www.uua.org/planning-aiw).
- c) The Commission on Social Witness will review all proposed Actions of Immediate Witness to determine if they can be considered. Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness which meet the criteria will be posted online and at the Commission on Social Witness Booth in the exhibit by 12:00 PM on Friday for consideration by the delegates.
- d) Delegates shall use an online form to vote for up to three Actions of Immediate Witness. The online form will be distributed electronically to delegates, and onsite access to the online form will be available in the exhibit area. Voting must be completed by 2:00 PM on Saturday. The three Actions of Immediate Witness which receive the most votes shall be eligible to be admitted to the final agenda.

- e) Each sponsor of a proposed Action of Immediate Witness determined to be eligible will have 2 minutes to speak in support before the vote to admit the action to the agenda.
- f) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- g) Up to 7 minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. 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 whether on-site or offsite, and 7 minutes for discussion has not expired..
- h) Debate and voting on affirmation of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during General Session on Saturday. Affirmation must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(2). Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness are not in competition with one another as are proposed Congregational Study/Action issues. Each of the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the Final Agenda may be affirmed or rejected by the delegates and Trustees.

## **RULE 13. 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 14. 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 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The final business session of the 2019 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 8:30 PM on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

# PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

## OUR DEMOCRACY UNCORRUPTED

America begins in black plunder and white democracy,  
two features that are not contradictory but complementary.

-Ta-Nehisi Coates

Democracy in the U.S. has always been compromised. At the Nation's very founding, participation in governance was almost entirely limited to white male landowners. Wealth was created from those excluded: the seizure of land from indigenous peoples who were forcibly assimilated or removed and exterminated, enslaved Africans, and exploited labor from indentured servants, immigrants, prisoners, and the working poor.

As people of faith committed to "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large," we must strive toward uncorrupted democracy. As a means to an end, democracy organizes decision-making among diverse people and preserves stability while balancing competing interests. But democracy is not merely a means. It is an end in itself, an ethical ideal, a moral and spiritual way of relating to one another.

The promise of democracy is for a life that fashions us as the people we want to be. Terry Tempest Williams calls us to be resolute and courageous in our trust: "Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up – ever – trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?" If democracy has sometimes seemed, as Winston Churchill said, "the worst form of government except for all those other forms," it is because democracy has been limited and constrained – merely a means for giving powerful interests the appearance of legitimacy.

Government by and for the people formally entails majority rule, with the majority's power limited by protection of the rights of those in the minority. Democratic government should include:

- universal voting rights with high voter participation rates;
- free, fair, competitive, and frequent elections;
- beyond voting, widely used and meaningful channels of political participation open to all;
- access to accurate information and diverse media;
- policies and processes accountable to the voters, not to special interests;
- basic individual liberties that include freedom of speech, press, and religion;
- leaders who reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and class diversity of the population;
- an independent judiciary and adherence to the rule of law;
- policies implemented by those duly authorized; and
- freedom from influence of foreign or external powers or corporate corruption.

Democracy is not only rules and systems, it is the culture and commitments of the people and of those entrusted with carrying out the will of the people. A truly democratic culture requires:

- transparency and radical inclusivity (intentional deep listening, attending to the concerns of the most vulnerable, and caring about inclusion and exclusion);
- cooperation, multi partisanship, and decision-making through consensus-building;
- accountability and accessibility, being responsive to the public good versus special interests;
- public officials being held to a high standard of ethical and fiduciary responsibility; and
- respect for the rights and needs of those in the minority.

# PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

44 The Nation’s founding documents expressed inspiring ideals of democratic equality. Unequal  
45 valuation, however, has undermined our country’s prospects for living the promise of true democracy:  
46 white people are valued more than people of color, men more than women, the rich more than the  
47 poor. These valuations, enshrined in law and custom, amplify the power of the advantaged and the  
48 advantages of the powerful, and continue to undercut our expressed ideals.

49 The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments of 1865-1870, the 17th Amendment of 1913, the 19th Amendment  
50 of 1920, and civil rights legislation in the 1960s represented expansions of voting rights. Yet, our laws  
51 and systems continue to protect privilege and maintain value gaps. White supremacist values and  
52 practices permeate America’s 400-year history. Supremacist values continue today through policies  
53 that disproportionately lower voter participation among peoples of color, people with low income,  
54 youth, and other disadvantaged people. Such policies include denial of voting rights for people  
55 convicted of felonies, voter ID requirements, and restrictions on early voting opportunities. In addition,  
56 gerrymandering limits the electoral power of people of color and of less powerful political parties. It can  
57 also move legislators further to the extremes, reducing their desire to cooperate or compromise.

58 The outsized influence of wealthy individuals and corporations on elections, always a corruption of  
59 democracy, has worsened in recent decades. The costs of campaigning in the U.S. have skyrocketed,  
60 increasing legislators’ debt to large donors. Over centuries, the outsized impact of wealth has created  
61 a narrow two party system, excluding vibrant progressive, socialist, and labor movements. Additionally,  
62 Supreme Court decisions struck down attempts to limit the influence of money in politics: *Buckley v.*  
63 *Valero* (1976) ruled that spending is a protected form of speech, and *Citizens United* (2010) ruled that  
64 corporations are people and therefore their campaign spending may not be restricted. Understanding  
65 our democracy requires examining how structural racism, sexism, money, environmental exploitation,  
66 militarization, and other systemic forms of oppression that contribute to accumulation of wealth and  
67 consolidation of political power.

68 At the Association level, Unitarian Universalists also fall short of democratic ideals. The cost and time  
69 required to participate in our annual General Assembly exclude many from association-level decision-  
70 making. Our voting procedures sometimes limit important conversations. The formal procedures often  
71 feel cumbersome; they are rooted in parliamentary rules that reflect a competitive orientation. Informal  
72 procedures have not addressed the problem. Excluding people of color from the creation of processes  
73 has distanced them from engagement. Informal systems rely on organizational cultures that not  
74 everyone has knowledge of or is able to access.

75 Congregations vary in governance and decision-making processes from top-down and hierarchical to  
76 more egalitarian. At both the Associational and congregational levels, realizing true democracy requires  
77 expanding to include more diverse voices.

## 78 **Theological/Religious Grounding**

79 *“We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and*  
80 *promote . . . the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations*  
81 *and in society at large.”*

82 Two phrases here warrant attention: *Within our congregations*. The 1648 Cambridge Platform laid the  
83 foundation for Unitarian Universalist polity, establishing the autonomy of congregations. Congregational  
84 polity puts democratic practice at the center of governance. Our shared religious life depends on  
85 honoring every member’s voice and vote.

86 *Society at large*. Our religious commitments extend beyond our congregations’ walls. Excluding our  
87 neighbors’ voices impoverishes our souls; hearing all voices expands our spirits. Our faith calls us to live  
88 into the requirements of real democracy.

# PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

89 Our theology locates healing and wholeness in relationship, in contrast to a theology of sin that sees  
90 human nature as fundamentally corrupt. Our tradition locates hope for addressing social problems not  
91 in the suppression of basic sinfulness but in building connections open to diverse perspectives. Another  
92 source of our religious movement is the Protestant Reformation's response to the corruption of a church  
93 that sold the promise of heaven for a price. Today in our secular politics we face the parallel corruption  
94 in which power, rather than heaven, is sold to those who meet the price.

## 95 **Actions We Could Take**

96 Achieving the ideals of our faith related to democracy, requires new approaches for mobilizing power  
97 and influence. This means engaging in radical truth-telling, intersectional organizing, and naming the  
98 forces that resist democratic reforms. A truly inclusive democracy challenges the exploitation of peoples  
99 and natural resources by corporate and political power. Our collective future calls us to live into what  
100 Unitarian theologian Rev. James Luther Adams named "the prophethood of all believers."

### 101 Individuals can take actions such as the following.

- 102 • Conduct a personal democracy audit. Review our relationships with systems that perpetuate
- 103 consolidation of wealth and power, i.e. investment choices.
- 104 • Seek out varied and reliable sources of information.
- 105 • Support electoral justice campaigns led by community organizers of color with voter registration,
- 106 particularly among underrepresented populations.
- 107 • Contribute time, talent, and money to democracy-building efforts and to non-profit civic
- 108 organizations that represent economically oppressed or marginalized people.
- 109 • Direct action toward democratic reforms and integrity through rallies, community organized events,
- 110 advocacy and contacts with elected officials. Specific goals include:
  - 111 • public financing of campaigns including independent and third party candidates, elimination
  - 112 of corporate donation, and establishment of a small donor matching system;
  - 113 • expanding ballot access, i.e. early voting, access to polling places, same day voter registration
  - 114 and automatic voter registration;
  - 115 • eliminating the electoral college;
  - 116 • ensuring voting integrity with paper ballot backups;
  - 117 • eliminating gerrymandering, partisan redistricting, and other forms of voter suppression;
  - 118 • allowing people with felony convictions to vote;
  - 119 • implementing ranked choice (proportional voting), reinstating the 1965 Voting Rights Act
  - 120 provisions, and strengthening the Federal Elections Commission; and
  - 121 • amending the Constitution to overturn Citizens United and end corporate personhood.

### 122 Congregations/covenanted communities can take actions such as the following.

- 123 • Conduct a congregational democracy audit that includes any practices that continue to sustain
- 124 white supremacy and income inequality. Take action to address findings.
- 125 • Organize action groups based on the needs of democratic reform and investigate how structural
- 126 racism, sexism, classism, environmental degradation, and militarization have driven the
- 127 accumulation of wealth and political power.
- 128 • Partner with other UU congregations and with other faith communities, non-profits, and unions to
- 129 work on democratic reforms.
- 130 • Support the Declaration for American Democracy campaign for comprehensive federal and state
- 131 democracy reform.
- 132 • Organize advocacy initiatives such as postcards, social media campaigns, rallies, sit-ins, petition
- 133 drives, and other forms of direct action in support of democratic reforms.
- 134 • Sponsor educational forums about factors contributing to the corruption of democracy.
- 135 • As part of the offering or special collections, ask for funds to support democracy-strengthening
- 136 efforts.

# PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

- 137 • Adopt resolutions supporting democratic reforms.
- 138 • Collaborate with ongoing UU-related partnerships such as UUSJ’s “Write Here! Write Now!”
- 139 campaign for democracy reform.
- 140 • Include children and youth of the congregation in conversations and invite them to join actions.

141 Clusters, districts, or state legislative ministries can take actions such as the following.

- 142 • Advocate for state level democracy reform legislation, voter rights, access, and participation as
- 143 advocacy priorities.
- 144 • Create and publish report cards on state or local legislators’ records on campaign financing and
- 145 issues impacting voter rights, access, and participation.
- 146 • Host non-partisan forums that alert congregations and the public to issues related to democratic
- 147 processes, and information about issues and candidates.
- 148 • Connect congregations that are advocating for democratic reform at the state, local or national
- 149 level.
- 150 • Use a variety of advocacy tools including media communications, social media, and meetings with
- 151 legislators to advocate for issues such as voting rights for people with felony convictions, campaign
- 152 finance reform, and election security.
- 153 • Study gerrymandering issues within the state and advise advocates about recommended actions to
- 154 ensure fair representation.
- 155 • Monitor and work to prevent privatization efforts and insist on accountability from existing
- 156 contractors that provide services, such as, private prisons, schools, and “welfare to work” programs.

157 The UUA can take actions such as the following.

- 158 • Conduct periodic association-wide democracy audits that include any practices that continue to
- 159 sustain white supremacy, sexism, and classism. Take action to address the findings.
- 160 • Invest in state legislative ministries and advocacy at the national level.
- 161 • Participate in the democracy-supporting movements such as WeDemandDemocracy.org.
- 162 • Participate in interfaith and multiracial coalitions and other social justice groups that work toward
- 163 achieving democratic reforms.
- 164 • Follow the lead of communities of color advocacy and political action groups including the
- 165 cultivation and support of candidates for elected office.
- 166 • Advocate for democratic reforms, including the limiting of money in politics and amending the
- 167 constitution to eliminate corporations as persons.
- 168 • Provide resources for member congregations that promote effective democratic engagement.
- 169 • Actively explore opportunities for virtually engaging more Unitarian Universalists in the Association’s
- 170 governance.
- 171 • Continue refining the Association’s collective democratic decision-making processes with tools such
- 172 as, ranked choice voting.

173 Rev. Barbara Pescan expressed both our debt and our ongoing responsibility to preceding generations:  
174 “Because of those who came before, we are; in spite of their failings, we believe; because of, and in  
175 spite of the horizons of their vision, we, too dream.” The Nation’s founders pointed in the direction  
176 of a horizon they themselves could not see. It falls now to us to make real the dream of democracy  
177 uncorrupted, a government truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Underlining indicates insertion; [brackets indicate deletion.]

## I. FULL MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP

These proposed amendments change the name of ministerial fellowship from “final fellowship” to “full fellowship.” This change was requested by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, in recognition of the need to engage in ongoing learning and professional growth over the full course of ministerial fellowship.

### 178 **Section 5.11. Board of Review.**

179 (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members, as follows:

180 (1) Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in [final] full  
181 ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for  
182 the preceding seven years; and

183 (2) One member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level; and

184 (3) Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom  
185 at the time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a  
186 member of one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or  
187 a member of the governing bodies of one or more such congregations.

### 188 **Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

189 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of no fewer than fourteen members as follows:

190 (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board; and

191 (b) at least eight members who are ministers in [final] full fellowship with the Association, four  
192 appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board.

### 193 **Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and Administrative Suspension.**

194 The fellowship of a minister may be terminated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for unbecoming  
195 conduct, incompetence or other specified cause. [Final] Full fellowship may be terminated only after  
196 notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Fellowship Review before the Committee. During an  
197 investigation or the pendency of a complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a  
198 minister until a final determination can be made on the minister’s fellowship status.

### 199 **Section 11.7. Appeal.**

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

## II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

These proposed amendments provide flexibility to appropriately structure committee terms by removing requirements for when appointed members start their terms. This is a conforming change to this section for appointed members, which was revised for elected members at General Assembly 2018.

### 204 **Section 5.2. Election and Appointment.**

205 (a) Elected members. Elected members of all standing committees of the Association shall take  
206 office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their  
207 successors are elected and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

208 (b) Appointed members. The terms of any appointed members of standing committees of the  
209 Association shall begin at the close of the regular General Assembly [in odd-numbered years].  
210 The Board of Trustees shall make each appointment no later than 120 days after the beginning  
211 of the term. Appointed members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointments  
212 and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, except as otherwise provided  
213 herein.

## III. PRELIMINARY FELLOWSHIP

**These proposed amendments give the Ministerial Fellowship Committee the ability to determine the term of preliminary fellowship in the Committee's rules, as approved by the Board of Trustees. This change was requested by the Committee in order to create rules for preliminary fellowship that will be more equitable to ministerial candidates.**

### 214 Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.

215 A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon complying with  
216 the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the Committee. A  
217 minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to preliminary fellowship for a period [of at least  
218 three years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to final fellowship] that allows  
219 the Committee to evaluate ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to full fellowship. The term of  
220 preliminary fellowship shall be defined in the rules of the Committee.

## IV. VOTING AND BALLOT PROCEDURES

**These proposed amendments revise conduct of elections sections to normalize electronic voting, as used in the 2017 UUA presidential election, while preserving the ability to vote by mail. Electronic voting has been an essential tool in expanding voting access and security. Additionally provides for rank-choice voting for Moderator and Presidential elections, and revises how electoral ties are determined.**

### 221 Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.

- 222 (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by [written or electronic] ballot, except that if only one person  
223 has been validly nominated for [each] an elective position at large the persons so nominated  
224 shall be declared elected and no [ballots] voting shall be required. Delegates will have access  
225 to electronic voting onsite at General Assembly or remotely, as described in Section 9.10(d), or  
226 by mail ballot as described in Section 9.10(c).
- 227 (b) [Persons Entitled to Vote] Eligible Voters. [Ballots] Votes shall be cast only by accredited  
228 delegates from certified member congregations and certified associate member organizations to  
229 the regular General Assembly at which the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast  
230 more than one [ballot] vote.
- 231 (c) [Absentee Voting] Mail Ballots. [Those entitled to cast ballots in an election] Accredited  
232 delegates may cast their ballots [electronically or] as paper ballots by mail, if they request to  
233 do so. Mail ballots can be requested through the Secretary, and [Absentee ballots] shall be  
234 [mailed] requested at least forty-five days prior to the General Assembly at which the election  
235 is being held. [An absentee] A mail ballot that is [mailed] returned must be received by the  
236 Secretary [not less than seven calendar days] by the last business day before the close of  
237 voting at General Assembly in order to be counted. [An absentee ballot that is transmitted  
238 electronically must be received by the Secretary prior to the closing of voting at the GA  
239 location. The closing date and time shall be designated in the General Assembly meeting  
240 announcement.]
- 241 (d) Electronic Voting. Accredited delegates may vote electronically either onsite at General  
242 Assembly or remotely. The Secretary shall designate the electronic voting period in the



# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

243 General Assembly meeting announcement and may add more time if justified. Electronic  
244 voting systems must be auditable, accessible, and secure.

## 245 **Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.**

246 (a) [For the position of President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee. If there are no more  
247 than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the candidate receiving the greater  
248 number of votes is elected; provided, however, that (i) in construing the foregoing with respect  
249 to Trustee positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective  
250 position; and (ii) in construing this section, a duly nominated candidate for the position of  
251 Moderator may consist of more than one person. If there are more than two duly nominated  
252 candidates for a position, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first,  
253 second, third, etc., choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast,  
254 the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast  
255 for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated  
256 thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes  
257 cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number  
258 of votes is elected.] Singular Positions. If there is more than one duly nominated candidate for  
259 a single position, not including the candidates for the position of Moderator and President, the  
260 candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected.

261 (b) [For Other Elective Positions] Multiple Positions of the Same Kind. [If there is one elective  
262 position at large to be filled, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected.]  
263 If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the candidates  
264 respectively receiving the greatest number of votes are elected.

265 (c) Moderator and President Voting. For the positions of Moderator and President, if there are  
266 two duly nominated candidates, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes will be  
267 elected. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates a ranked vote will be held in  
268 which voters indicate their ranked choices for candidates. If no candidate receives a majority  
269 of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be  
270 eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the  
271 second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives  
272 a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving  
273 the greater number of votes is elected.

## 274 **Rule G-9.11.1. Tie Vote-Elected [Committee] Position.**

275 If a tie vote occurs in filling an elected [committee] position when only one person is to be elected and  
276 when ranked voting is not being used, or occurs in filling a slate when the slate cannot be completed  
277 without resolving the tie, then a candidate or candidates shall be eliminated by random draw to  
278 determine the winner [as soon as possible before the final adjournment of the General Assembly  
279 involved, additional ballots shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that initially  
280 the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall contain only the names of the candidates  
281 who are tied. These ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast for the tied  
282 candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the foregoing procedures shall determine the  
283 election, unless there is still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to resolve it].

## 284 **Rule G-9.11.2. Tie Vote - Ranked Voting [Moderator].**

285 [If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to resolve the tie shall be presided over  
286 by the Secretary of the Association who, in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie, shall have  
287 the rights and duties of the Moderator.] Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference  
288 votes, including mail ballots, then among these, the candidate with the fewest number of second  
289 preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third  
290 preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the candidate with the fewest number of original  
291 first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with  
292 original second preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, a candidate shall be eliminated by  
293 random draw.

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

294 [Rule G-9.11.3. Tie Vote-President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee.

295  
296 If, in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee, in any particular counting of  
297 the preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote among candidates having the  
298 least number of votes, then each such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting, the  
299 ballots accumulated for said candidate shall be redistributed among the remaining candidates on the  
300 basis of the highest effective preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast. However, if in  
301 this process, such elimination leaves only a single candidate who in that counting still does not have  
302 a majority of the counted votes, or if only two candidates remain in the contest and they are tied, then  
303 there shall be as many run-off election procedures, conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.11.1, as  
304 are necessary to result in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee by at  
least a majority of the votes cast.]

305 **Rule G-9.13.1. Election Preparation [and Mailing of Ballot].**

306 Unless no [ballot] voting is required according to Section 9.9(a), prior to each regular General Assembly  
307 at which an election is to be held, the Secretary shall prepare the voting system and ballots [upon]  
308 which shall [appear] include the names of all [persons] candidates who have been nominated for office  
309 in accordance with these Bylaws and whose nomination is contested by at least one other candidate.  
310 [One such ballot] Voting instructions shall be sent with each credential [card] issued by the Secretary.

311 **Rule G-9.13.2. Order of Candidate Names [on Ballot].**

312 [On all ballots used i]]n elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined [by  
313 the drawing of lots done] by the Secretary [and witnessed by two other persons]; provided, however,  
314 that the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees, other than Youth trustee, shall be by Board  
315 position number first, and then as determined above. For electronic voting, candidates shall be listed in  
316 random order for each separate ballot [The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the  
317 certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office.  
318 This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them].

319 **Rule G-9.13.3. Write-ins Prohibited.**

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

322 **Rule G-9.13.4. [Absentee] Mail Ballots.**

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

326 **Rule G-9.13.5. [Balloting] Voting at General Assembly.**

327 A person shall be qualified to [cast a ballot] vote at General Assembly only if that person presents to the  
328 Secretary of the Association or those employed by them a valid credential [properly certified ballot stub]  
329 plus a badge issued to that person and containing the same name as the name on the credential [ballot  
330 stub. An electronic ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure  
331 voting protocols].

# PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

## V. BOARD AUTHORITY FOR ELECTIONS

**This proposed amendment changes ultimate accountability for election decisions from solely the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.**

332 **Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.**

333 The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at large. The Secretary may appoint a  
334 committee of tellers to count ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall decide any  
335 question arising during such an election concerning:

336 (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to  
337 election procedures;

338 (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the  
339 Rules; or

340 (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

341 [The Secretary's decision shall be final.] The decision of the Secretary may be changed by a two-thirds  
342 vote of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall remain neutral in the election and shall not engage in  
343 electioneering, except for advocacy of their own candidacy for offices for which they are nominated.

## VI. NOMINATION BY PETITION

**This proposed amendment raises the threshold and broadens regional inclusion for nominations by petition for Moderator and President.**

344 **Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.**

345 For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular  
346 or special election, may be by petition signed by no fewer than [twenty-five] fifty certified member  
347 congregations, including at least one congregation from three of the regions of the Association. A  
348 certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing  
349 board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary  
350 of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year  
351 of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.

# PROPOSED BUSINESS RESOLUTION

## BUSINESS RESOLUTION – BALLOU CHANNING DISTRICT MERGER

**This proposed Business Resolution approves a merger with the Ballou Channing District, who has independently voted to merge with the Unitarian Universalist Association. This resolution is required to be approved by member congregations in order to complete the merger.**

352 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the members of the  
353 Unitarian Universalist Association do hereby authorize and approve the merger of the Ballou Channing  
354 District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Incorporated (“BCD”) with and into the Unitarian  
355 Universalist Association ( the “UUA”), with the UUA as the surviving entity in such merger (the “Merger”),  
356 after which BCD will cease to exist as a separate entity, and adopt the merger agreement relating to such  
357 Merger as previously approved and authorized by the Board of Trustees.