

MINUTES

**FORTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Assembly adopted, by a vote of two-thirds or more, Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

A list of the congregations entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year was read: San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Georgetown, Texas and Heartland Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the UUA staff, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, Beacon Press, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Social Witness, the Nominating Committee, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.

On the basis of an initial report by the Secretary of the Association, a quorum was declared present from the time the meeting was called to order.

Members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee presented the 2010 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Dr. Jane Rzepka.

Action on Bylaw and Rule Amendments

VOTE ON REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws of the Association that provide for removal of committee or board members for good cause.

Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.

A member of any standing committee of the Association may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the Board is present, if in the opinion of the

Board the member is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office or otherwise for good cause.

Section 6.7. Resignation and Removal of Trustees.

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

VOTE REMOVING “CONTINENTAL” REFERENCES

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws and Rules of the Association that remove “Continental” references.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each admitted action shall be discussed and amendments shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, (year), and the chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

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

Rule G-4.12.1. Report of Comments on UUA Statements of Conscience.

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

Rule G-4.18.2. Business Resolutions and Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

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

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

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

**VOTE ON MAKING CANDIDATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Rules of the Association that make candidate information electronically.

Rule G-9.12.6. Campaigns for Elective Office.

Each candidate for an at-large elective position may submit to the Association a campaign statement. The Association will post electronically the statements of all candidates. Notice of the posting shall be distributed to the congregations with the absentee ballots and electronically, and to the delegates as a part of the final agenda.

VOTE ON ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENT AND MODERATOR

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws of the Association that provide for the establishment of a Presidential Search Committee, changes to terms of office, and a process for nominations.

Section 5.1. Election and Terms of Office.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- (a) the Nominating Committee;
- (b) the Presidential Search Committee;
- (c) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- (d) the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) the Commission on Social Witness; and
- (f) the Board of Review.

Section 5.2. Election and Terms of Office.

Elected members of all Section 5.1 committees shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as otherwise provided herein. One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years. Any member of the Nominating Committee or the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve for terms of six years.

Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.

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

Section 8.3. Term of Office.

- (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.
 - (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
 - (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall serve for a term of six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
 - (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
- (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- (c) Transition Provision. The bylaw amendment changing the term of office of the President from four years to a single term of six years shall become effective for the election of the President at the regular General Assembly in 2017. The President elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013 shall not be eligible for election in 2017. The bylaw amendment changing the term of office of the Moderator from four years to a single term of six years shall become effective for the election of the Moderator at the regular General Assembly in 2013. The bylaw amendment calling for the election of a Presidential Search Committee (Section

5.2) shall become effective for the election of members of the Presidential Search Committee at the regular General Assembly in 2013. The first two sentences of this transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2017. The third, fourth and last sentences of this transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2013.

Section 9.5. Nomination of President and Moderator.

- (a) President. The Presidential Search Committee shall submit no fewer than two nominations for the office of President for an election at the end of a presidential term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced by February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.
- (b) Moderator. The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more nominations for the office of Moderator for an election at the end of a moderator term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a moderator election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.

Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition

- (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of new fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.
- (b) For other Elective Position at Large. A nomination for any elective position at large or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. Nominations for youth trustee at large shall be so designated.

VOTE ON NOTIFICATION FOR DRAFT STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that provide for more flexibility in notification for draft Statements of Conscience.

Section 4.12(c)(3). UUA Statements of Conscience.

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

VOTE ON APPROVAL OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDAS

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws of the Association that provide for the Board of Trustees to prepare and approve the General Assembly agenda.

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare a Tentative Agenda for each regular General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XV, Section 15.2;
- (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;
- (d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2, submitted by:
 - (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;
 - (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; or

- (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified member congregations with no more than 10 members of any one member congregation counted as part of the 250;
- (f) proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions submitted by a district by official action at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of three Business Resolutions per district; and
- (g) Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12(a).

Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received by the Board of Trustees by February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If the General Assembly opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received no later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that General Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines are established by Sections 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than June. The Board of Trustees shall include on the Tentative Agenda all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of Business Resolutions in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions and may make such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a standard format. It may also submit one or more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two or more Business Resolutions. Adoption of Business Resolutions by a General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. The Tentative Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee by March 1 if the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise, not less than 90 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

Section 4.12(a)(2). UUA Statements of Conscience.

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

Section 4.14. Final Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare a Final Agenda for each General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) all reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly and all proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules appearing on the Tentative Agenda that meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3;
- (b) those Business Resolutions, including alternative versions, on the Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3;
- (c) Business Resolutions, amendments to Rules or Bylaws or other items submitted by the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee, which did not originally appear on the Tentative Agenda, provided, however, that any such items appear on the Final Agenda accompanied by an explanation for the delayed submission;
- (d) additional proposed amendments to Bylaws submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) those proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues on the Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3, and if applicable pursuant to Sections 4.12(a); and
- (f) the UUA Statement of Conscience submitted by the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12 (c) and (d), if applicable.

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

Section 5.7. General Assembly Planning Committee.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight elected members and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees at its first meeting following the regular General

Assembly in each odd-numbered year. No elected member shall serve on the Committee for more than two four-year terms in succession. The appointed members shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Committee shall be responsible for arrangements for General Assembly and programs and meetings to be held in connection therewith. It may establish subcommittees of its members and may delegate part or all of its powers to them.

[TO BE RENUMBERED 5.8-5.14 as 5.7-5.13]

Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

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

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

Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience and Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

Rule G-4.12.2. Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

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

Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.

Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and Districts.

By November 1 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days before each regular General Assembly, each certified member congregation and district shall be notified of the dates for submitting items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be followed, and the forms to be used.

Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Poll.

At the time of the mailing of the Tentative Agenda each certified member congregation shall be requested to report by February 1, on a form provided whether it recommends or does not recommend for action by the General Assembly the Business Resolutions, proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues in the first Cycle year, and draft UUA Statements of Conscience in the Fourth Cycle year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2) appearing on the Tentative Agenda, including the alternative versions of Business Resolutions (if any) submitted by the Board of Trustees. The recommendation with respect to each proposed resolution or issue must be certified by the minister, clerk or president of that congregation as being within the procedures of that congregation. Only a Business Resolution which a majority of the congregations voting on the resolution recommends for the action shall be eligible to be included on the Final Agenda from the Congregational Poll. If there is more than one version of a Business Resolution on the Tentative Agenda, the subject of the resolution shall be considered a single item on the Tentative Agenda and the Congregational Poll. All versions shall be listed consecutively within that item. An aye vote by a congregation for one or more versions shall be counted an aye vote for inclusion of a resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda, the version that receives the highest number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business Resolutions eligible from the

Congregational Poll, the Board of Trustees shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the eight Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Poll. The Board of Trustees may also include on the Final Agenda alternative versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to those selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle year, the Board of Trustees also shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues receiving a majority of votes and the highest number of "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action, provided that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. If the number of proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues recommended for action in the Congregational Poll exceeds five and there is more than one such issue in fifth position as a result of a tie vote, all issues in fifth position shall be referred to the Final Agenda by the Commission on Social Witness. In the fourth Cycle year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2), the Board of Trustees shall further include on the Final Agenda a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience, provided that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such draft UUA Statement of Conscience. A report of the vote by which each resolution on the Tentative Agenda was or was not "recommended for action" shall be included on the Final Agenda. All Business Resolutions that are included on the Final Agenda shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-assembly.

Section 4.19. Rules of Procedure.

Rule G-4.19.1. Adoption of Rules of Procedure.

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

UUA Statement of Conscience

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly adopted the following Statement of Conscience:

CREATING PEACE

I. Where We Stand

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. We all agree that our initial response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods. Yet, we bear witness to the right of individuals and nations to defend themselves, and acknowledge our responsibility to be in solidarity with others in countering aggression. Many of us believe force is sometimes necessary as a last resort, while others of us believe in the consistent practice of nonviolence.

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

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

6. Our faith calls us to create peace, yet we confess that we have not done all we could to prevent the spread of armed conflict throughout the world. At times we have lacked the courage to speak and act against violence and injustice; at times we have lacked the creativity to speak and act in constructive ways; at times we have condemned the violence of others without acknowledging our own complicity in violence. We affirm a responsibility to speak truth to power, especially when unjust power is exercised by our

own nation. Too often we have allowed our disagreements to distract us from all that we can do together. This Statement of Conscience challenges individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations and Association, to engage with more depth, persistence, and creativity in the complex task of creating peace.

II. Historical and Theological Context

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

A. Historical Practices

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

B. Theological Principles

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

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

The transforming power of love. We affirm the reality of love as a dynamic power within and among us. This power moves us to create relationships of compassion, respect,

mutuality, and forgiveness; to love our neighbor; and to recognize everyone as our neighbor. We stand on the side of love when we work for peace.

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

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

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

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

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

Humility and open-mindedness. We affirm an open-mindedness that makes us suspicious of all claims of finality, including our own. Humility allows us to take strong stands while remaining open to the possibility that we are wrong or that future circumstances may call for a different position.

III. Calls to Action

Creating peace calls for action at all levels of human interaction. To be effective, our actions must be incorporated into existing structures and institutions, and new systems must be created. We support the Unitarian Universalist Peace Ministry Network in its work of identifying resources, disseminating information, and evaluating methods to create a culture of peace on all levels.

Creating Peace in Our World

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

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

Creating Peace in Our Society

We covenant to act in the wider community in reducing the causes of institutional and structural violence by:

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

Creating Peace in Our Congregations

We covenant to create peace through worship, religious education, and social action by:

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

49th General Assembly
June 23 – 27, 2010

Creating Peace in Our Relationships

As individuals we covenant to:

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

Creating Peace within Ourselves

We recognize that peace begins with each person and covenant to:

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

In reverence for all life, we covenant to practice peace at all levels of human interaction.

Action on Business Resolution

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved the following two Business Resolutions.

PHOENIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

WHEREAS the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law—SB 1070—that runs counter to our first Principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person; and

WHEREAS the Association stands in solidarity with allies mobilizing in love against this divisive and oppressive legislation; and

WHEREAS we have been invited to enter into an historic partnership with Puente and National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON) to work for human rights and against racial profiling; and

WHEREAS the UUA Bylaws specify that the power to call and locate a General Assembly belongs solely to the UUA Board of Trustees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly hereby:

- calls on the UUA Board to gather Unitarian Universalists for the purposes of witnessing on immigration, racial and economic justice—a “Justice” General Assembly, in which business is limited to the minimum required by our bylaws—in June 2012, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona;

- calls on the UUA administration to work with leaders in Arizona UU congregations to establish an Arizona immigration ministry to partner with other groups in Arizona working for immigration reform to strengthen those partnerships in preparation for our arrival in 2012;
- recognizes that people with historically marginalized identities will be exposed to increased risk and inaccessibility, and therefore instructs the UUA Board to work in accountable relationship with Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Latina/o Unitarian Universalist Networking Association (LUUNA), EQUUAL ACCESS, Transgender Religious Professional Unitarian Universalists Together (TRUUST) and other stakeholders to identify measures that can be taken to increase safety and accessibility at the 2012 “Justice” GA;
- calls on the UUA Board to direct the economic impact of our presence in Phoenix toward our partners and allies as much as is feasible; and
- calls on the UUA Board to continue providing the resources needed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to stand in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives.

THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN RELIGION

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make a special effort in the year 2011 to participate in the Association’s continuing work for environmental justice,

49th General Assembly
June 23 – 27, 2010

environmental stewardship, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, and environmental restoration. We ask member congregations to reflect on the religious teachings and experiences that inspire Unitarian Universalists in this important work; and

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

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this General Assembly encourages all of the Association's member congregations to support the Green Sanctuary program and to apply for Green Sanctuary accreditation. We ask that an Association report on the history of the Green Sanctuary program and the Association's other work for environmental justice be presented to the 2011 General Assembly.

Actions of Immediate Witness

The Assembly adopted by a vote of two-thirds or more the following three Actions of Immediate Witness.

OPPOSE ANTI-IMMIGRANT MEASURES AT THE STATE LEVEL (Arizona Law S. B. 1070 and the Like) AND HASTEN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

BECAUSE our Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm and promote:

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and

BECAUSE we welcome the stranger and we recognize our neighbor, we know that immigrants come to this nation to work hard and provide for their families. The presence of immigrants benefits the nation; and

BECAUSE WE FIND that the legislators and governor of Arizona interfered with federal interests, encroached on federal jurisdiction, and created in SB 1070 a law that would

press for the deportation of our neighbors or bully our neighbors, especially people of color, and punish their compassionate friends; and

WHEREAS in 2010 the State of Arizona enacted a law—SB 1070/HB 2162—intended to identify, prosecute, and press for deportation of undocumented immigrants present in Arizona. Its provisions:

- make it a state misdemeanor to be an undocumented immigrant who is present in Arizona;
- require persons to carry proof of their lawful presence;
- require police officers, during a lawful stop, detention, or arrest, to "make a reasonable attempt" to determine the immigration status of a person if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is an undocumented immigrant;
- encourage lawsuits against agencies perceived to be insufficiently enforcing immigration laws;
- make it a criminal offense for an undocumented immigrant to “knowingly apply for work, solicit work in a public place, or perform work” in Arizona; and
- make it a criminal offense to transport, move, conceal, or harbor undocumented immigrants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 General Assembly delegates oppose Arizona Law SB 1070 and the enactment of laws similar to Arizona Law SB 1070 in other states;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates call on Congress to enact federal comprehensive immigration reform legislation, as previously described in our 2006 Action of Immediate Witness, “Support Immigrant Justice”;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates call upon the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, their individual members and friends, and affiliate organizations, to pledge themselves:

- to continue to witness against SB 1070 and its implementation;
- to support Arizona on a July 29, 2010 Day of Non-Compliance and events during the Human Rights Summer;
- to apply such economic pressure to the state as is specifically targeted to achieve repeal;
- to monitor legislation in other states and witness against any similar anti-immigrant proposals;

- to participate in voter registration and civic engagement campaigns as a prerequisite to better laws in the future;
- to call on President Obama to reassert the federal government's exclusive control over immigration law;
- to support federal legislative proposals such as the Dream Act that benefit citizens and immigrants alike; and
- to persist until humane federal comprehensive immigration reform is achieved.

GULF COAST ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE 2010

Because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, thirteen parishes (counties) in Louisiana and two counties in Mississippi continue to work towards recovery from the devastating impact of the storms; and

BECAUSE our Unitarian Universalist commitment to justice is rooted in compassion, fairness, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and

BECAUSE of our Unitarian Universalist values of compassion and equity, thousands of UU volunteers have worked to restore communities and infrastructure across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; and

WHEREAS hurricane/flood recovery operations are at grave risk, due to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster, an unprecedented accident that continues to inflict great environmental damages; and

WHEREAS the environmental damage wrought by this industrial accident may permanently impact the habitat, the coastal economies, and the way of life for millions of residents who claim the Gulf Coast as home—particularly high-poverty communities situated along the Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana coasts; and

WHEREAS the complexity of this disaster has contributed to divisive artificial solutions that pit the needs of American consumers and workers in the oil industry against the needs of the environment and the survival of vital fishing and hospitality industries; Therefore be it resolved that the UUA General Assembly 2010 will witness to the suffering of all residents and workers who make their homes along the coast, refusing to pit one suffering constituency against another; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we educate ourselves and our communities about how we are involved in these events due to our demand for oil, and that we actively commit ourselves to reducing energy consumption from fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we dedicate ourselves to restorative justice practices as we strive to hold the oil industry and our government accountable for failed operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we promote stable green jobs for displaced oil workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we dedicate ourselves to help restore wetlands, habitats, beaches, communities and local economies that have been hurt along the coast; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that we urge President Obama and Congress to work with stakeholders to develop a response strategy that meets the needs of the people and the environment; hold the responsible parties accountable; ensure that help reaches those in need; commit to a long-term recovery; take steps to prevent future disasters; and respond to yet-unknown needs.

CLEAN UP THE CLEAN ENERGY BILL

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm the interdependent web of existence, as well as the democratic process; and

WHEREAS the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico illustrates the tragic cost of fossil fuel energy, the recklessness of corporations that allow the public to bear their risk, and the moral imperative to conserve energy; and

WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions threaten to bring about catastrophic climate change—current levels exceed the safe upper limit for atmospheric carbon dioxide and business as usual would take them even higher; and

WHEREAS nuclear energy is plagued by unsolved problems of radioactive waste disposal, the risk of terrorism, and weapons proliferation, and requires highly capital-intensive investment that diverts funds from safe, renewable sources; and

WHEREAS renewable energy and conservation can expand only when dirty and dangerous sources of energy are made to pay for the cost they impose on society; and

WHEREAS President Barack Obama, responding to the BP oil disaster, said: “The time has come, once and for all, for this nation to fully embrace a clean energy future”; and

WHEREAS in 2009, the House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act, and the Senate is currently considering the American Power Act, as well as the Carbon Limits and Energy for America’s Renewal Act; and

WHEREAS the American Power Act provides loan guarantees for nuclear power, subsidies for so-called “clean coal,” and expanded offshore oil drilling; and

WHEREAS the oil, coal, and nuclear industries spend millions of dollars each year on lobbying and public relations, thereby distorting scientific fact and the democratic process; and

WHEREAS current energy legislation will shape United States energy and climate policy for the next generation, with even longer-term consequences for Earth's natural systems and human welfare;

THEREFORE the 2010 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges member congregations to ask the Senate immediately to act on the energy legislation it is considering, which must be amended to make dirty and dangerous energy pay its full societal cost and truly favor clean energy and conservation. Legislation must:

- cap greenhouse gas emissions (methane as well as CO₂) in all economic activities, at a level recommended by scientists in order to prevent catastrophic climate change;
- remove all liability limitations (including the Price-Anderson Act for nuclear power) for any energy source, allowing risk to affect the price of energy and safe energy to become cost-competitive;
- impose stringent control and meaningful inspection of offshore oil drilling; halt mountaintop removal coal mining; eliminate the exemption of hydraulic fracturing of shale from Environmental Protection Agency regulation;
- direct loan guarantees and subsidies exclusively to safe, renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, tide) and conservation; and
- include a national Renewable Energy Standard, requiring utilities to generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Responsive Resolutions

By a vote of two-thirds or more, four Responsive Resolutions in response to the reports officers were passed.

RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION REGARDING 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS the UUA Board Report on the Business Resolution on Phoenix General Assembly 2012 calls for a gathering of Unitarian Universalists for the "purposes of witnessing on immigration, racial, and economic justice—a 'Justice' General Assembly,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association strongly urges the UUA staff, the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly Planning Committee to consider a number of conditions while planning for this "Justice" General Assembly in Arizona 2012. The Youth Caucus envisions a General Assembly in which:

- we gather in nonviolent protest with a focus on public witness and social action;

- appropriate consideration is given to make this General Assembly accessible for all participants;
- efforts are made to recognize the voices of delegates who choose not to attend General Assembly 2012 for reasons of safety or personal ethics;
- worship services, specifically a bridging celebration and multigenerational worships, are preserved;
- programming, including youth, young adult, and multigenerational programming, is educational, informative, and reflective of the spirit of a "Justice" General Assembly; and
- youth and young adults are involved as both participants and leaders throughout the process.

CONFRONTING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS the Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations endorsed and advocated supporting full equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, which constituted a substantive portion of her report to the Assembly, and by her social witness action of requesting that the full General Assembly of delegates attend and witness at Minneapolis Pride, on Saturday, June 26, following Plenary Session IV; and

WHEREAS the Committee on Right Relations specifically invoked the inherent worth and dignity of transgender individuals as a substantive portion of its report during the business meeting of the General Assembly 2010 in Plenary Session IV; and

WHEREAS the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is before the House of Representatives and Senate and the passage of sexual orientation and gender identity employment equality is in jeopardy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 General Assembly affirms its commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express this spiritual value through our employment practices, educational efforts, congregational life, public witness, and immediate advocacy for the passage of the inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage member congregations and societies to act within their congregations and communities to promote and educate the importance of employment equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION: A REMINDER TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT GROUPS

This resolution is in response to the Board of Trustee's statement in its report that they are "eager to further efforts to empower young generations of UU leaders." It is based on:

- the tireless past work of youth and young adult leaders at our GAs, who worked to empower our young leadership and support these groups with the creation of the Youth Ministry Working Group Report and the Youth and Young Adult Empowerment and Accountability Resolutions;
- the current work of the Youth Ministry Advisory Committee and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office to further the goals set forth therein; and
- our denomination's vision of growth that is rooted in the strength and commitment of our youth and young adults.

LET US RESOLVE:

- to be reminded of the Youth and Young Adult Empowerment and Accountability Resolutions of 2008, the Mosaic Report, the Youth Ministry Working Group Recommendations, and the Congregational Survey on Youth and Young Adult Ministries directions for congregational support of youth and young adult groups;
- that when the participants of this General Assembly return home and report to their congregations the business of General Assembly, they are mindful to discuss and assess the health and functionality of their youth and young adult groups and to make sure that the proper resources, such as personnel, budget, and meeting space, are allocated to these groups; and
- to ensure that religious professionals and lay leaders are ministering to the needs of these groups.

Only with a commitment of support at the congregational level can our youth and young adult groups continue to thrive.

RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

BE IT RESOLVED that the UUA Board of Trustees investigate how we might develop a covenant of right relationships for all of our work together, and report back to this General Assembly next year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board and/or UUA staff provide opportunities to learn the skill of compassionate witness so that when one of us forgoes the covenant, we have the skill to lovingly call that person to account and invite them back into covenant, so that we may all share in the ministry of creating our beloved community.

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: accredited and attending the 49th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist

49th General Assembly
June 23 – 27, 2010

Association were 1549 member delegates, 378 ministerial delegates, 2 credentialed religious educators, 5 associate member delegates, 23 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 21 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count) for a total of 1957 delegates representing 581 congregations, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 Canadian provinces. Total registration for the Assembly was 3880, including 148 youth.

Closing

The Assembly thanked Moderator Gini Courter for her leadership and then voted to adjourn *sine die*.