## Mini-Assemblies

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Room 121</th>
<th>Thursday 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Room 121</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Assembly on proposed bylaw amendments</td>
<td>Mini-Assembly on the proposed resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bylaw Amendments

Proposed Bylaw Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in room 213 D of the Phoenix Convention Center on Thursday at 10:45 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

## Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2012 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in room 121 of the Phoenix Convention Center prior to voting in Plenary. One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

## 2010 Congregational Study/Action Issue (Immigration as a Moral Issue)

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2010 General Assembly. There will be a lecture on the topic offered Thursday at 3:15 p.m. in 227 AB of the Phoenix Convention Center.

## Actions of Immediate Witness

Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at GA in 2012.

## Budget Hearing

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2012 - 2013 budget Friday at 3:15 p.m. in Room 121 of the Phoenix Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the GA Office (across from Hall D of the Phoenix Convention Center North Building) by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.
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 Plenary

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

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

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

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

There are four microphones: pro, con, procedure and amendment.

- To speak in favor - go to the pro mike.
- To speak against - go to the con mike.
- To make an amendment – go to the amendment table for assistance.
- To raise a procedural issue, go to the procedure mike.

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

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

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

Debate

There must be 15 minutes of discussion allowed on the motion as printed (or as presented by the 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 to speak on the motion as presented, this time may be shortened. The Moderator alternates recognizing speakers at pro and con microphones.

After 15 minutes of debate, amendments may be presented. Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. Only one amendment may be presented at a time. (You can’t amend an amendment.)

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

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

### Voting

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

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

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

### Mini-Assembly

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to resolutions on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. (Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.) It’s an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments, and, for the Statement of Conscience, to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. (Note: There is no proposed Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.) Mini-Assemblies save Plenary time and permit freer debate than plenaries do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a business resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during plenary debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the rule changes listed on the final agenda. All Mini-Assemblies are listed in the program.

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

### Budget Hearing

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

### Statements of Conscience

**Note:** There is no proposed Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.

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

Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

### Actions of Immediate Witness

**Note:** Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

**To Get Your Questions Answered**

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

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

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

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

**Need information?** Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Board of Trustees. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each Plenary Session.

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

**Committee of the Whole**

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

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

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate moves that the Committee of the Whole “rise and report” specifying the agreed-upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the Plenary Session of the General Assembly is again in session. The motion formulated in the Committee is reported and vote is taken immediately, without debate or possibility of amendment.
**Opening Celebration and Plenary #1**  
**Wednesday 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Vote on Rules of Procedure
- Welcome New Congregations
- Introduce Youth and Young Adult Caucuses
- Journey to the Doctrine of Discovery  
  *Steve Newcomb*
- Choral Anthem
- Keynote Speaker on the Doctrine of Discovery
- **Story of Today and Tomorrow Part I**  
  *Pablo Alvarado, Exec. Director, National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)*
- **Story of Today and Tomorrow Part II**  
  *Rev. Peter Morales*
- Introduction: Right Relationship Team and GA Chaplains
- Invitation to Witness  
  *Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray*  
  *Tupac Enrique Acosta*
- Closing Congregational Song
- Recess

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**Plenary #3**  
**Friday 8:30 am - 10:15 am**

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Song
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationships
- General Assembly 2010 Business Resolution Report
- Building a Community for Justice: Cultural Humility  
  *GA 2012 Accountability Group*
- Song
- Presentation and Vote on Proposed Congregational Study Action Issues
  - CSAI 1 - Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and their Effects Matter to Us
  - CSAI 2 - Families, Population, and the Environment
  - CSAI 3 - Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling
  - CSAI 4 - Exploring Class Barriers
  - CSAI 5 - Ending Slavery
  
  [NOTE: If a run-off vote is necessary, it will be taken in the Saturday Plenary Session.]

- Announcements
- Recess

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**Plenary #2**  
**Thursday 7:45 am - 8:30 am**

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Song
- Business Agenda and Mini-Assembly Overview
- Building a Community for Justice
  - Right Relationships
  - Accessibilities
- Announcements
- Recess

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2012 General Assembly
Agenda: Order of Business

Plenary #4
Saturday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationships

Report of the UUA Board of Trustees
- Budget Report: Resourcing for Justice
- In Memoriam
- Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award

Building a Community for Justice: Cultural Humility
GA 2012 Accountability Group

Testimony
Comités de Defensa del Barrio

Song

Testimony
Tiffany and Geraldine Mendez, UU Church of Phoenix

Special Collection to Support Immigration Ministry

UUA President’s Report
Rev. Peter Morales
- Special Presentation
  Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
- UUA President’s Award for Volunteer Service

Recess

Plenary #5
Sunday 2:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

GA Volunteer and staff recognition
Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder

Introduction: Taking Justice GA to our congregations
- Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation
  Rev. Marti Keller
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
  Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz
- Staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association
  Kay Montgomery

Report of the UUA Financial Advisor
Dan Brody

Song

Debate and vote on proposed amendments to Bylaw Section C-10.9. Pension System - Second Year Vote

Debate and vote on proposed amendments to Bylaw Article XV - Second Year Vote

Debate and vote on proposed amendment to bylaw sections C-3.1, C-3.3, and C-3.6, Member Congregations - Second Year Vote

Song

Moderator’s Report
Gini Courter

Debate and Vote: Responsive Resolution: Doctrine of Discovery

Other Responsive Resolutions

Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationship Team

Invitation to General Assembly 2013 in Louisville

Final credentials and announcements

Adjourn
RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS
Consideration of and action upon items must proceed in the order set forth in the Final Agenda unless during the meeting that order is changed by majority vote.

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

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

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

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

RULE 6. TIME LIMITS
The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. (Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly; there is no proposed UUA Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.) If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

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

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

c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones or in the off-site queue and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question on a motion to amend the main motion is in order after 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment.

RULE 7. MICROPHONES
a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated “Pro” or “Con” and off-site “Pro” and “Con” queues is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.

b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone or off-site queue designated "Amendment" is limited to presenters of motions and members of the Board of Trustees who may use the microphone only for:

1) making an amendment to a main motion or another amendment, provided the motion is otherwise in order;
2) using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and

3) stating the Board of Trustees’ position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board takes a position.

c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone or queue.

RULE 8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, at his or her discretion from time to time may order the meeting resolved into a Committee of the Whole or reconvened in regular Session. While the meeting is acting as a Committee of the Whole, the following Special Rule will apply:

The Presiding Officer, without a vote of the Committee of the Whole, may permit reconsideration of any action taken by the Committee of the Whole and other departures of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure if it appears to him or her that the work of the Committee of the Whole will thereby be expedited.

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

RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION
Any motion concerning the 2012 - 2013 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing at the General Assembly Office not later than 5:00 p.m. Saturday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA
A Resolution or Action not on the Final Agenda may be considered only under the following circumstances:

a) under Bylaw Section 4.16, which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions; (Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at this General Assembly.)

b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.

The author of a Responsive Resolutions must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of his/her Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00 p.m. on Saturday for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in plenary sessions 1-4. A resolution submitted to the Commission on Social Witness for consideration as an Action of Immediate Witness may not be submitted as a Responsive Resolution.

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

After debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written or electronic ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates for which one of the Congregational Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Congregational Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two Issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.
RULE 12. UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE
In a year in which a UUA Statement of Conscience is proposed, one hour will be allowed for debate. (Note: there is no proposed UUA Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.)

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

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

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

RULE 13. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS
(Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RULE 14. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
These Rules of Procedure will be adopted by a two-thirds vote and may be amended, suspended, or repealed during the course of the Assembly only by a two-thirds vote, except for the preceding Rule 9, the amendment, suspension, or repeal of which requires a four-fifths vote.

RULE 15. ADJOURNMENT
The final business session of the 2012 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 24.
CSAI 1
Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and their Effects Matter to Us

Issue

1. Effects of Global Climate Change (GCC) now threaten our lives, property, health, and our children’s futures. We must simplify people’s united support behind a single campaign for policy change on greenhouse gases; and inform ourselves, and others, about practical new Climate Action and Adaptation Plans, which lay out imaginative lifestyle change.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism

Our Seventh Principle calls us to respect the interdependent web. Our Fifth Principle honors the democratic process. Heeding the guidance of science, as articulated in our Fifth Source, we submit this proposal standing on the shoulders of the many Unitarian Universalists (UUs) who act responsibly on Global Climate Change.

Topics for Congregational Study

• Study of state, regional and local Climate Action and Adaptation Plans.
• What recommendations in the plans are/are not funded and/or implemented?
• How can planned adaptation measures be used to motivate more individuals to act on the personal, local, and federal level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
• If your congregation does educational outreach on GCC, and you could email a link to all audience members afterward that would result in their effective advocacy on GCC with just two clicks of a mouse, what would the one or two sentence advocacy message say?
• Should UU’s participate in or support lawsuits that hold governmental bodies responsible for the harmful effects of greenhouse gases?

Possible Congregational/District Actions

• Congregational: Select an effective national advocacy campaign for the reduction of carbon emissions, and facilitate the participation of congregants and others in your community.
• Congregational: Educating the congregation and the surrounding community on the causality link between manmade greenhouse gas emissions and their local effects.
• Congregational: Taking up local issues related to flooding, destruction from extreme weather events, drought related water supply issues, and other GCC effects in Congregation Based Community Organizations with which the congregation is affiliated.
• District: Synchronizing the District legislative Agenda with the legislative agendas of state and local governments implementing Climate Action plans.
• District: Informing congregations of cross-jurisdictional Climate Action/Adaptation measures that affect them.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements

• Alternate Sources and Conservation of Energy—1981
• Law of the Sea Treaty—1982
• Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste—1984
• Protecting the Biosphere—1989
• Safer Sources of Energy—1992
• Population & Development—1996
• Earth, Air, Water, and Fire—1997
• Endorse the Earth Charter—2002
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2012-2016

- End Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining—2006
- Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change—2006
- Extend the Tax Credit for Wind and Solar Power—2008
- In Support of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act—2009
- Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill—2010
- The Green Revolution in Religion—2010

Additional Information

This Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) Proposal is submitted in the hope of creating a greater capacity for UU congregations to take action on Global Climate Change.

I. Unitarian Universalist Involvement In the Issue

Unitarian Universalists have been involved in Global Climate change for more than two decades. The 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming defined many ways that UUs could take individual, congregational, or group advocacy action to reduce greenhouse gases, and many UUs have made significant lifestyle changes and participated in many advocacy campaigns as a result of the guidance of that SOC.

After the 2010 General Assembly, a UU Climate Change and Environmental Justice Action Coalition was formed, including representatives from UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the UU State Advocacy Networks, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO). If this CSAI Proposal is accepted for study, our democratic CSAI Social Witness process could inform the future efforts of this coalition.

Currently, it is possible to link to Advocacy Action campaigns on Global Climate Change through the UUA website, the UU-UNO website, the UUMFE website, and the UUSC website website. Information on Global Climate Change is available through state UU Legislative ministries as well. Most of what is available on these websites is educational and informative. Some of what is available is direction to other websites where direct action can be taken, and some of what is available contains direct links to active electronic petitions and campaigns.

On the UUA website, there is a sample letter for Climate Change Advocacy and a script for telephone advocacy on climate change. The UUA Social Justice Page links to the Environmental Justice Page. The Environmental Justice Page has a Global Warming/Climate Change link. As of the May 26, 2011 update there were no Advocacy Action links on this page.

The UU-UNO Climate Portal has Action Alerts accessible on the home page. Unfortunately, if you click on the “What we can do-mitigation” link, rather than scrolling down to the Action Alerts, then the electronic petition is missed. If, however, you make it to the Action Alerts, there is a succinct electronic petition to sign and submit.

The UUSC website home page links to an Environmental Justice page, on which there is a “What you can do” link. Action listed on this page includes: registering for UUSC’s e-Community, signing up for Environmental Justice News, Getting Information about your water, and considering becoming a Green Sanctuary under the UUMFE program.

The UUMFE website has a “Take Action” tab on the home page, which brings up a page with a menu on the left. This menu has a Global Warming/Climate link. The areas of action listed are: We can reduce our carbon footprints, We can learn, We can provide ways for individuals to take action by using resources from the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and We can start a small group conversation.

UU State Advocacy Networks have been established to facilitate UU advocacy. Issues are selected at 2 year intervals in California. In Florida, Climate Change is a core issue of the UULMF. This website informs us that laws to address this issue have been sidetracked and are still being opposed nationally.
and locally, and that both state and federal legislators need to hear about the public’s concerns. The Link to their Climate Change page has links to informational climate change resources: The US EPA, Wikipedia, Oceana website, UUMFE, Florida Climate Change, NASA’s Goddard Spaceflight Center, Mother Nature Network, Union of Concerned Scientists, Environment News Service, Thousand Friends of Florida, Nature Conservancy, National Sierra Club, Sierra Club Florida Chapter, and the IPCC. As of July12, 2011 there were no links to Action petitions or campaigns on the UUMLF site.

II. The Lawsuit Filed by Jim Hansen

Jim Hansen filed a lawsuit against the White House for failing to address Global Warming.

III. State and Local Climate Action and Adaption Plans

Meaningful Global Climate Change policy has been stalled at the federal level, but many states and localities have adopted plans with aggressive mitigation goals, and sustainability as a guiding principle. The policy recommendations in the state Climate Action Plans are in line with Unitarian Universalist values, and reflect the thinking expressed in our 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming. Advocacy is needed to move from policy recommendations to funded and implemented public policy.

A. State Climate Action Plans:

The EPA website states that: “A climate Action Plan lays out a strategy, including specific policy recommendations, that a state will use to address climate change and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.” The following states have completed a climate change action plan: AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, IA, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, All States.

B. State and Regional Climate Action Initiatives:

The Pew Center has researched state and regional climate policy initiatives. Several Regional initiatives are detailed on this site. Effective advocacy at the state and local level requires information about the Climate Action Plans and Adaptation Plans enacted by the governmental bodies in states and localities in which we live and worship, knowledge about which recommendations are being implemented, and updates on which recommendations have not been implemented. Advocates also require knowledge about which recommendations have or have not been funded, and the public process to advocate for movement from policy recommendations to public policy. City and county Climate Action Plans, Adaptation Plans, and Mitigation plans will require congregations to do local research.

C. Climate Action Plans for cities and counties in which congregants of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton reside Palm Beach County has a Climate Action Plan under development in conjunction with Broward County, Miami Dade County and Martin County

1. Palm Beach County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy: This document assigns risk, vulnerability, and financial loss dollar values to parcels of land and buildings throughout Palm Beach County. The procedures for prioritizing mitigation efforts and rebuilding projects from hazards of all kinds using a cost benefit analysis are spelled out in this document. It lists sea level rise in response to global climate and local tectonic changes as a flood hazard.

2. Boynton Beach Climate Action Plan

3. Delray Beach Climate Action Plan is not yet developed. Their Green Task Force is working on this issue.

4. Boca Raton has a commitment to sustainability found on page CP-3 of this document, but no Climate Action Plan.

5. City of Lake Worth Climate Action Plan is in draft form.

Contact

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, FL
Families, Population, and the Environment

The world’s human population continues to grow. Yet millions live in poverty and many, both young and old, have been abandoned. What moral responsibility do people have to each other and to future generations? We ask for a new conversation about families and family planning, population growth, and the environment.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
Unitarian Universalists bring human rights concerns and environmental protection concerns together. One of our Association’s principles calls attention to the interdependent web of existence. Other principles affirm the worth and dignity of every individual and the need for justice for all.

Topics for Congregational Study
• Are there too many people in the world? Listen to different points of view. Some leaders say that the human population can be much increased. Should there be limits to population growth? If so, what programs do you propose and support?
• Discuss the “carrying capacity” and “sustainable development” concepts.
• Consider family planning, access to health care services, sexuality education, marriage and adoption rights, the empowerment of girls and women, and related subjects. What moral guidelines, if any, should guide the population issues discussion?
• Family structures are changing. As you discuss families and family planning, consider the needs of single parents, adoptive parents and guardians, same-gender couples, and others who have sometimes been overlooked in “family values” discussions. How can congregations be helpful?
• Life expectancy is increasing. How can congregations care for an aging population?
• Consider the role of women and girls in population management and sustainable development. Review the work of the United Nations since its 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.
• Discuss the significance of the Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter.
• Does the world exist for humanity alone? What moral responsibility, if any, do human beings have to protect biodiversity?

Possible Congregational/District Actions
• Support Planned Parenthood and reproductive and sexual health services in North America and in other parts of the world.
• Support the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program and similar programs for sexuality education.
• Review the “family values” discussion. Discuss the needs of different kinds of families. Develop congregational programs that can assist families with adoption, parenting, and care for elders.
• Work for marriage and adoption rights for same-gender couples.
• Reclaim Father’s Day and Mother’s Day and celebrate these holidays in appropriate ways. Honor biodiversity and the teaching of evolution with religious activities.
• Expand your understanding of “stewardship.” Become a Green Sanctuary congregation. Demonstrate the appropriate use of water, energy, and other resources. Lead by example on a crowded planet.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements
• Endorse the Earth Charter—2002 Action of Immediate Witness
• Population and Development—1996 General Resolution
• Sexuality Education in Public Schools—1994 Action of Immediate Witness
• Environmental Justice—1994 General Resolution
• Choices Affecting Population—1990 General Resolution
• Amerasian Children—1983 General Resolution
• Women and Religion—1977 Business Resolution
• Federal Legislation for Choice—1973 General Resolution
• Discrimination Against Homosexuals and Bisexuals—1970 General Resolution
• Concern for Older Adults—1966 General Resolution
Additional Information

Are there too many people in the world?

On October 31, 2011, the world’s human population reached seven billion, according to the United Nations Population Fund. In 1930, the world’s human population was an estimated two billion. So the size of the human population has more than tripled in about eighty years and the human population continues to grow. High birth rates, in some parts of the world, combined with decreased infant mortality rates and increased life expectancy, in many regions, help to explain population growth during recent decades.

There is little disagreement about the size of the human population, but the question remains, “Are there too many people in the world?” It’s possible that the world can support a human population of ten billion, or fifteen billion, or even more. However, many natural resources, such as water and fossil fuels, are finite. If worldwide oil production peaks during the next thirty years, while the human population is expanding and the developing nations are industrializing, the results may be cataclysmic. The Earth has a limited supply of fresh water and increased competition for water can also produce social conflict.

Each year, an estimated 38% of the pregnancies in the world are unplanned, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. Unwanted pregnancies often produce unwanted children, and, in the poorest regions of the world, unwanted children are often abandoned and easily exploited and abused. UNICEF can only estimate that there are “tens of millions” of street children in the world. Abandoned children often become criminals, child soldiers, factory or farm workers, or prostitutes.

The world’s human population is aging. Life expectancy is increasing in many nations. When available, data shows that poverty among older persons is higher than for young adults. As North America’s population grows older, the question in many congregations and communities is becoming, “How do we care for people who are past the age of 60?”

The pollution of the oceans, the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and the climate change problem, have all been documented by agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme. The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates that 10-30% of the mammals, birds, and amphibians on planet Earth are threatened with extinction, because of human activities. Discussions about human population growth often focus on human concerns. However, there is a need, also, to ask the question, “What moral responsibility, if any, do human beings have to other species and to the whole of the natural world?”

In 1994, the United Nations coordinated the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt. What developed at the Cairo conference changed the population growth discussion for many participants. United Nations reports noted that birth rates decline, and family life improves, as women gain more control over their lives, and as they rise above the poverty level. In the year 2000, the Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter appeared. Both statements express concern for social justice and the whole community of life. The Earth Charter was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2002.


The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice includes a variety of member groups, including the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation. The Religious Coalition looks beyond the abortion debate to seek solutions to pressing problems such as unintended pregnancy, the continued spread of HIV/AIDS, inadequate health care and health insurance, and the severe reduction in reproductive health care services in the United States. The Religious Coalition supports access to sexuality education, family planning services, and adoption services for all people, regardless of income.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the American affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The International Federation has member agencies in 149 nations. Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of reproductive health care services in the United States.

Other organizations that are concerned about population issues and reproductive health care services include Population Connection, Pathfinder International, and Population Action International.
The Sierra Club is one of the environmental protection organizations that is involved with population issues. The Sierra Club’s Global Population and Environment Program acknowledge the complex relationships that involve humans, their health, and their environment. The Sierra Club is concerned about biodiversity issues and sustainable development. It has expressed support for the Millennium Development Goals.

In 1991, the first edition of the Green Sanctuary handbook was published. The Green Sanctuary program is an environmental action program for congregations. The program is managed by the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Congregational Stewardship Services department.

The Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all beings. The Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth is involved with environmental justice projects in congregations and districts.

Same-gender couples often feel excluded from “family values” and family planning discussions. In most parts of the world, marriage rights are denied to same-gender couples and it’s difficult for same-gender partners to establish a family with adopted children. Planning for retirement and elder care can be difficult for a same-gender couple. Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) works for marriage and adoption rights for same-gender couples. The Family Equality Council assists lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) headed families at all stages of life. The Human Rights Campaign is involved with civil rights issues.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Ministries, a department of Multicultural Growth and Witness, serves the Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations.

The Religious Institute has reviewed many of the sexuality-related policies and programs established by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a joint program for sexuality education developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

Contact
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA
Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling

Issue
Reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally. Reproductive Justice represents a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women’s power. The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
Unitarian Universalist’s (UU’s) have been on the frontline of women’s reproductive rights and anti-racist work for decades. The commitment to reproductive justice would reenergize that commitment, and pay attention to the important intersections of race, class and gender. This work would be informed by the feminist theologians, reproductive justice advocates, and UU’s in the movement.

Topics for Congregational Study

• Why is focusing on individual choice inadequate?
• What is reproductive justice?
• How do power structures limit individuals’ access to reproductive justice?
• What are the choices in birth?
• What moral questions does reproductive technology create?
• How does sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse contribute to unintended pregnancies later in life?
• How can eliminating racism, classism and sexism reduce the need for abortion and enable families to care for the children they do have?
• How are pregnant women who use drugs stigmatized and what are the real dangers and solutions?
• How can transgendered individuals maintain their reproductive rights?
• How do economic justice and reproductive justice intersect?

Possible Congregational/District Actions

• Form a Reproductive Justice Committee.
• Join Sister Song as an ally member.
• Invite Sister Song to conduct reproductive justice training.
• Educate congregation on reproductive justice, choices in birth and other relevant issues, including presenting a lay service on reproductive justice.
• Show films about reproductive justice.
• Present a reproductive justice workshop at district meetings.
• Advocate for legislative positions that foster reproductive justice.
• Give money to organizations that help women fund abortions.
• Create interfaith networks and committees.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements

• Reform of Abortion Statutes—1963 General Resolution
• Abortion—1968 General Resolution
• Abortion—1973 General Resolution
• Unitarian Universalist Statement On Survival And Population Control—1970 General Resolution
• For The Right To Abortion—1975 General Resolution
• Abortion: Right To Choose—1978 General Resolution
• A Religious Statement On Abortion: A Call To Commitment—1980 General Resolution
• Resolution On Abortion Clinic Bombings—1985 Business Resolution
• Right To Choose—1987 General Resolution
• Federal Legislation For Choice—1993 General Resolution

Additional Information

Online Resources: (for links go to www.uua.org/statements/current/189638.shtml

• What is Reproductive Justice? (YouTube)
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2012-2016

Loretta Ross of SisterSong on “Reproductive Justice 101” Part 1 & Part 2 (YouTube)
Lucy Felix, Migrant Health Promotion (YouTube)
A Different Vision for the Reproductive Justice Movement: LUZ Reproductive (YouTube)
Speak Justice! (YouTube)
Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change (PDF)
Reclaiming Choice: Broadening the Movement (PDF)
Three Applications of the Reproductive Justice (PDF)
Important Reproductive Rights Supreme Court Decisions

Organizations
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Bibliography
Murphy, Sheigla and Marsh Rosenbaum. Pregnant Women on Drugs: Combating Stereotypes and Stigma. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1999

Films
The Abortion Diaries
Made in LA
The Business of Being Born
Entre Nos

Congregational Support
Certifying Congregation
Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ

Endorsing Congregations
First Unitarian Society of Denver
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers
Exploring Class Barriers

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) have a reputation for being snobbish. Pursuing social justice, it is time for us to look inward and study the barriers we create inhibiting people with modest income and/or education to feel included.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
Believing in the inherent worth of every person, we can find truth by inclusion of persons of all income and educational statuses. Without that truth, UUs are limited in promoting peace, liberty and justice for all.

Topics for Congregational Study

• Class/Income/Education wise: who are we, who are we not?
• How can we use our discomfort in encountering someone of a higher or lower class/income/education in making persons of other class/income/education more comfortable?
• What assumptions do we make about income and education of others?
• Do we create barriers by our purchases and expressions of our income and education?
• How can we structure UU congregational activities to be more inclusive?
• What can the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) do to make General Assembly (GA) and other UUA resources more inclusive?
• How does our choice of music and art express our class, income and education?
• How should we approach stewardship and fundraising to be inclusive?
• How will our class/income/education awareness inform our approach to social justice?

Possible Congregational/District Actions

To better understand others, get involved with them and their struggle:

• Remove economic barriers in using UU facilities. For example, host Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) meetings and gatherings of public interest for free.
• Do social justice outreach within our community—get involved with other churches and schools to stand in solidarity with low income persons. This might involve tutoring, providing school supplies, serving community meals to needy people, and assisting families engaged with the criminal justice system.
• Lobby local and state government to remove economic barriers to public resources.
• Lobby school boards to remove economic barriers in our school systems.
• Use Sunday services to educate the congregation what we’ve learned to combat insensitive expectations of others.
• Consider ways we can structure UU and UUA to avoid charging fees—example, you have to buy podcasts of GA workshops.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements
Although we have made many Statement of Conscience (SOC) concerned with Income, Race and Class (as in 2006 SOC), we have not really explored income and educational barriers to inclusiveness within UU. In searching the words income, economic and class, we’ve been very concerned—about what the government and culture are doing, but we’ve never had an SOC that specifically looked inward at who we are and how we relate to those of lower class/income/education backgrounds.

Additional Information

• Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History, written by UU minister Mark Harris. A discussion guide was created for the book by Gail Forsyth-Vail and Susan Dana Lawrence, both of the UUA.
• Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed at 2011 GA discussed that lack of racial diversity was a function of lack of class diversity—so if we want to grow a multicultural/multiracial diversity, we need to tackle inclusion of different classes of people.
• Suzanne Zilber, PhD, led a workshop exploring issues of class at Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA). In October, Suzanne will be sharing this workshop at UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa.
• Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss has led workshops on Classism with Unitarian Universalism for UU ministers in five UUMA chapters around the country.
• Doug Muder in UU World Magazine, Fall 2007 wrote Not my father’s religion about how uncomfortable UU would have been for his working class father.

Contact
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, IA
Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2012-2016

CSAI 5
Ending Slavery

Issue
Modern slavery [see footnote 1.] is among the most pervasive human rights violations. Approximately 27 million people worldwide [see footnote 2.] are enslaved, more than ever throughout history. Their stolen labor creates products consumed every day [see footnote 3.]. However, this egregious violation is not inevitable [see footnote 4.]. We can finish the work begun by our abolitionist forebears [see footnote 5.].

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism
Slavery is an affront to our principles, stripping people of their dignity and the worth of their labor. It is intrinsically violent, unjust and degrading. Through our faith and history, we have affirmed that all people have inherent worth and dignity, and that freedom is a fundamental right for everyone.

Topics for Congregational Study
• Slavery has been part of many cultures throughout history. Do you know your own family’s ancestral history? Were they enslaved? Were they slave holders? How does this impact how your feelings and actions regarding slavery today [see footnote 6.]?
• Many products we use every day are manufactured using slave labor [see footnote 7.]. How do our culture and lifestyles contribute to allowing slavery to exist, and how can we change this?
• In America, slavery and human trafficking are often hidden in plain sight. We can all learn the warning signs of slavery and trafficking. If you saw the warning signs of slavery what actions would you take and who would you contact [see footnote 8.]?
• Can you imagine the feeling of being emancipated? What does one need after experiencing enslavement? Does emancipation alone eradicate the culture that allows for human enslavement?
• What are the local organizations or services in your area that support victims of trafficking and slavery?
• Many experts believe that we have never been closer to ending slavery [see footnote 9.]. What can you do to end slavery?
• How does US foreign policy play a role in facilitating trafficking and slavery [see footnote 10.]?
• How does our faith tradition’s commitment to healthy sexuality impact our understanding of commercial sex, sex trafficking, and the wellbeing of those involved in both systems?

Possible Congregational/District Action
• Most Americans are unaware of the prevalence of modern slavery. Contact other local faith leaders, communities and local media to let them know your congregation is addressing modern slavery.
• Incorporate information about ending modern slavery via book discussions [see footnote 11.], DVD showings [see footnote 12.] for youth [see footnote 13.] and adults.
• Support local, national and international organizations that address societal level factors that contribute to the enslavement of human being, including reducing poverty and empowering marginalized groups.
• Purchase Fair Trade products at your congregation. Where Fair Trade options aren’t available, urge companies to take responsibility for labor practices in their product chains.
• Contact local law enforcement and other authorities to find out if they have policies, protocols, and training in place.
• Look at the capitalistic system that allows for a culture where human beings can be rendered disposable [see footnote 14.].

Related Prior Social Witness Statements
The last time modern slavery was addressed as a General Resolution was in 1965 [see footnote 15.] and in 1967 [see footnote 16.][see footnote 17.]. Modern slavery was also proposed as a study action area at the 2010 GA.

Footnotes
1. Experts in modern slavery define a slave as a person who is forced to work without pay beyond bare survival, and who is not free to leave, either through violence or through threat of violence. See Free The Slaves or Anti-Slavery or any of the books referenced below.
2. Bitter Harvest, UU World, November/December, Kimberly French. See The Slave Next Door: Human trafficking and slavery in America today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (Berkeley; Univ. of California Press, 2009) or the FBI Human Trafficking website.

Additionally, in 2010 the United States was for the first time ranked in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report with the finding that within the US women, men, and children were forced into slavery through “forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution.” The report ranks 177 countries based on “the extent of government action to combat trafficking,” with Tier 1 as the highest ranking. A Tier 1 ranking indicates that a state government has recognized the problem of human trafficking, has made efforts to address the issue, and meets the TVPA’s (Torture Victim Protection Act) minimum standards. A country with a Tier 2 rating has not met the standards but has made efforts to do so, while a Tier 3 rating means the country has not met the minimum standards and has not attempted to do so. The United States received a Tier 1 rating.

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

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

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

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

Unitarian Universalists Against Slavery is a small organization focused on educating the UU community about slavery. It brought speakers to the 2003 General Assembly to speak about slavery. This organization is now dormant.

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

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

   1. The documentary Traces of the Trade follows Katrina Browne as she and her family uncovers their history as descendents of a wealthy slave trading family.
   2. Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History, by Thomas Norman (Boston: Beacon Press, 2009)
   3. Listen to family history and review genealogical records for clues to your family history.
   4. The Passover holiday celebrates the Jewish people’s liberation from slavery in Egypt. This time of year can be used to draw connections between the Passover holiday and modern slavery.
7. The steel in our cars may be formed using charcoal created by slaves. Our clothing could be cut or sewn by forced slave labor.

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


10. It is well documented that a U.S. military presence abroad often results in women being trafficked for prostitution. Diplomatic immunity awarded to foreign officials exacerbated the potential for this abuse. See the book Barracks and Brothels: Peacekeepers and Human Trafficking in the Balkans by Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson for review.

11. Suggested reading about modern slavery

- Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2007)
- The Slave Next Door - Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (Berkeley: Univ of California Press, 2009)
- To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales and Zoe Trodd (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 2008)

12. DVD titles available from Free the Slaves that address modern slavery and human trafficking include:

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


14. According to Kevin Bales’ book Ending Slavery, the enslaved fieldworker who cost the equivalent of $40,000 in 1850 costs less than $100 today.

15. Human Rights Conventions—1965 General Resolution: “BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the United States Senate, with all possible speed, to ratify the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; the Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor; and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;”


17. More recent Social Witness Statements reference the successes of 19th Century Abolitionists: The New Abolitionism—1982 General Resolution: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges all Unitarian Universalists to recognize and support solemnly and with hope the great new historical movement known as The..."
New Abolitionism, ‘a worldwide moral and religious movement which says ‘no’ to the nuclear arms race and nuclear war as the old Abolitionism launched a crusade to say ‘no’ to slavery. The New Abolitionism against slavery...can be a winning crusade’ because it must;”

There are also Actions of Immediate Witness: (Support for the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—2007: “The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to continue to monitor and advocate for CEDAW as part of follow-up to the 2007 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, ‘Stop Modern Day Slavery: Breaking the Web of Human Trafficking’; and...”

and, The Alien Tort Claims Act And Accountability For Multinational Corporations—2004: “The Alien Tort Claims Act is the only United States law permitting multinational corporations with significant assets in the United States to be held accountable for their unethical behavior elsewhere in the world. Passed in 1789 by the First Congress of the United States, it enables victims of torture, slavery, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity to put the corporations that are responsible on trial in American courts.”) a Business Resolution (Women’s Rights Anniversary—1998: “Therefore be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Association shall within this two-year period 1. Make effort to note the milestones in the critical anti-slavery efforts of women and the women’s rights struggle, from the 1848 Convention to the present...“) and a Responsive Resolution (Truth, Repair, and Reconciliation—2007: “President Sinkford asked, ‘What are our truths? To whom must we be reconciled?’ We have many stories to uncover—genocide, slavery, oppression. Only by knowing our truths can we act boldly on our spiritual journey of healing.”) that express our opposition to slavery.

Contact
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County, CA
These Bylaw amendments broaden the definition of the word “congregation.” If these Bylaws are amended, corresponding Rules will be amended by the Board of Trustees. These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

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

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

Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.
A member congregation upon written notification to the Association may withdraw from the Association at any time. The Board of Trustees may terminate the membership of any congregation that, pursuant to the provisions of Section C-3.5, has been placed in an “inactive congregation” category maintained by the Association but shall do so only after consultation with:

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

This proposed Bylaw amendment corresponds to new Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rules that have eliminated the category of “Associate Ministerial Fellowship.” The proposed change was given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

Section C-10.9. Pension System.
The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for ministers in full fellowship with the Association.
Article XV Amendment

Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.

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

(b) Amendments to C Bylaws Other Than in Article II. A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process.

(1) Such proposals must be placed on the agenda of a regular General Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at such regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

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

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

(c) Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II. A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be [admitted to the] subject to the following process.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Following the 2009 defeat of a proposal to amend Article II of the UUA Bylaws, the Principles and Purposes, General Assembly delegates passed a resolution calling on the UUA Board to review the bylaws that govern the amendment process. The proposed amendment to Article XV retains the current process for amending Article II, with a study commission followed by votes at two General Assemblies. However, the new process lets the first GA propose amendments to the study commission’s Article II language using a Mini-Assembly process similar to the one used for many other business actions. These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121
Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly for the sole purpose of determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for review and study. Such a review study shall involve member congregations. A majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the study commission. Once the review and study of the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more than three years, the study commission shall submit to the Planning Committee Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly following completion of the review and study process the proposal in the form originally presented to the regular General Assembly and any amendments to the proposal Article II that the study commission recommends as a result of the review and study process. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal. All proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws that are placed on the agenda after review and study (including amendments to such proposals recommended by the study commission) shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the review and study process, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two years.]

A motion to dispense with the review and study process and give preliminary approval with respect to a proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II shall be in order during the General Assembly at which consideration of a motion to refer the proposal to the review and study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with the review and study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage. Such a proposal shall then be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption without amendment. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

After completion of the review and study process, proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws shall not be subject to substantive amendment. The Moderator shall determine whether an amendment to such a proposal is substantive. At the first General Assembly following the completion of the study process, amendments to the Article II proposal may be considered only as follows:

(i) During the General Assembly there shall be a mini-assembly held during which amendments to the Article II proposal recommended by the study commission shall be considered.

(ii) A delegate may submit in writing at the mini-assembly an amendment to an Article II proposal. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Moderator, in consultation with the chair of the study commission, the parliamentarian and legal counsel shall prioritize proposed amendments for consideration by the General Assembly. A majority vote of the General Assembly is required for approval of any amendment proposed in the mini-assembly.
Following the vote on any amendments proposed in the mini-assembly, the General Assembly shall vote on any amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees. A majority vote is required to adopt such amendments. Following the vote on all amendments, the General Assembly shall vote on preliminary approval of the Article II proposal. A majority vote is required for preliminary approval.

If no amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(ii) above, the Article II proposal shall be submitted for final approval to the next regular General Assembly. Final approval requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. No amendments may be considered.

If one or more amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are adopted by the General Assembly, the Article II proposal shall be referred to the study commission. Within six months after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission, taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall prepare the proposal to amend Article II. The Board of Trustees shall put this proposal on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.

At the next regular General Assembly following the process described in subsection (c)(3)(v), above, the Article II proposal is subject to amendment only by a three-fourths vote in favor of an amendment submitted to the General Assembly in writing by the Board of Trustees, a district, or a minimum of fifteen (15) certified congregations, as described in Section 15.2 of these Bylaws. Final approval of the Article II proposal requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

If the Article II proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the study process described in subsection (c)(3)(iv) or subsection (c)(4), above, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.

If no study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to study Article II for not more than two years and to recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall review the recommendations of the study commission and, in its discretion, may submit the recommendations of the study commission to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II which are promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval process as described in subsections (c)(3) and (c)(4), above. [Such proposals must be approved preliminarily by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.]
Motion from the Right Relationship Monitoring Committee for the UUA Board of Trustees meeting January 2012

Moved: That the following section entitled “Report from the Board on the Doctrine of Discovery” be added to the 2012 Board report to the congregations of our Association, that the responsive resolution that follows it be placed on the agenda for the 2012 General Assembly, and that both this section of our report and the resolution be sent out to congregations with the Tentative General Assembly Agenda.

Report from the Board on the Doctrine of Discovery
In September of 2011, the UUA Board was asked by partner organizations with whom the UUA is working in Arizona to educate UU congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery and to ask the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly to repudiate this doctrine. We believe that the Doctrine of Discovery, as conceived in the 15th century and enforced to this day in U.S. law, is contrary to Unitarian Universalist principles, theology and values. Because of this, we recommend to our member congregations that they engage in education about the Doctrine of Discovery and we endorse the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery by the 2012 General Assembly. We further endorse measures that will help the United States be in full compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, an agreement seen as reparative to the centuries of damage caused by the Doctrine of Discovery.

Background Information
The Doctrine of Discovery (DOD, also called the Doctrine of Christian Discovery) is a principle of law developed in a series of 15th century Papal bulls and 16th century charters by Christian European monarchs on the basis of which much of the rest of the world was explored and colonized by Europeans. It contained a theological justification of colonization that later became a nationalistic one. In an article in Yes! magazine, Gale Courey Toensing writes, “it was essentially a racist philosophy that gave white, Christian Europeans the green light to go forth and claim the lands and resources of non-Christian peoples and kill and enslave them—if other Christian Europeans had not yet already done so.”

For more than five centuries, the interpretive framework of the DOD has been institutionalized and used to assert a presumed right of dominance over originally free and independent indigenous peoples. The DOD was used by European nations to justify their conquest of Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Americas. It was the justification—theological and political—for the appropriation of the lands and resources of indigenous peoples and efforts to dominate native nations and undermine the sovereignty of indigenous nations and peoples. Among other things, it formed the basis for the slave trade, the partition and colonization of the Near East, the colonization of the Americas, and the genocides of the indigenous peoples of Africa and the Americas.

The DOD is the basis for United States policy regarding native peoples. After the American Revolution, the tenets of Christian Discovery were continued by the new United States. In the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Johnson v. M’Intosh (1823), Chief Justice John Marshall wrote that “Christian people” who had “discovered” the lands of “heathens” had assumed the right of “ultimate dominion to be in themselves” and that this presumption of “dominion” had “diminished” the Indians’ rights to complete sovereignty as independent nations, and had resulted in the Indians having a mere right of occupancy to their lands. Unlike many regretful decisions of the past, this decision has never been overturned, and is still referred to in legal decisions on a regular basis (as recently as 2010 in the Federal courts).

The DOD is also foundational in the ways in which our nation’s policies on migration and immigration are formed and enforced. Preventing indigenous peoples from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to inhabit lands that are historically theirs is justified in U.S. law by the DOD.
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, overwhelmingly passed in 2007 after two decades of work, repudiates the DOD and calls upon the nations of the world to respect the land claims of their indigenous peoples and treaties made with indigenous peoples. It is a positive and comprehensive international human rights instrument addressing the economic, social, cultural, political spiritual and environmental rights of indigenous peoples. Among other things, it recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to migrate in their own lands, even when national borders have been drawn by colonial powers through them.

The United States is one of only four countries in the world that voted against the declaration (the others being Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Since then, all four have claimed to endorse the Declaration without taking steps to implement it. In the United States, the Declaration has not been submitted as a treaty to the Senate, giving it no force in law. While the rights addressed in the Declaration are similar to the rights guaranteed for other groups through other international human rights agreements that the United States has ratified and is implementing, none of these existing agreements extend rights of self-determination and equality to the indigenous peoples of this continent.

Indigenous peoples from around the world are asking all religious faiths and their respective national and international organizations to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and related documents, and to call for the United States to fully implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without qualifications. As the Declaration is described in its own preamble as “as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect,” implementation of its standards needs to be done in accountable relationship with the indigenous peoples of our continent.

Unitarian Universalist Theologies and the DOD

The Unitarian and Universalist religious movements were born in the midst of revolution. “We the people” established the state and federal governments of the United States. The notion that human communities could be established on a democratic and intentional basis had a profound impact on our religious heritage. The American values of equality and justice were directly tied to the Universalist and Unitarian theologies that declared everyone equal in the eyes of God and possessing of sparks of divinity within.

But the United States did not come into being with an inclusive understanding of who constituted “we the people.” Women, People of Color, working people, people of diverse sexual and gender orientations still have to struggle for equity and inclusion. Unitarian Universalists have joined in these struggles. This work of equality and justice continues and there is much to do before our country can call itself inclusive, equitable and genuine in its commitment to justice for all.

Unitarian Universalists have long been guided by the radical notion that the truth will make us free. But we are not free of the past, our nation lives a lie, and our people are taught a history based in denial. A theology of mutuality and equality rather than of privilege and dominance means challenging ourselves to understand this history. The indigenous people of this land were conquered by vicious force and the land was taken from them. These actions were rationalized with the arrogant notion that the natives were savages and the invaders were civilizing Christians. The first people of this land have contributed much to our national culture, our food, our music, and most notably to our impatience with hierarchy and patriarchy. Benjamin Franklin credited the Haudenosaunee Confederacy for the idea that a federal union could be created out of self governing states. Yet these contributions are forgotten and even denied and it offends the presumption of white privilege to admit how much the nation has been influenced by People of Color.
Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”. This, our seventh principle, has profound theological implications. It calls us to a deeply rooted relationship with all that is, realizing that we belong to this world and that the world does not belong to us. Once we take this stance, we realize that the dominant culture of Europe and North America propagates a fundamentally different orientation, one based on exploiting our planet and using it for immediate gratification. We hear claims that the land is a “resource” and the people of the land should “be employed” for “productive purposes” by enterprising people of privilege and power. More and more people are learning that the world view of domination is profoundly alienating, estranging us from our essential human nature and from each other.

Unitarian Universalism is grounded in theologies that value relationship and reconciliation. We are taught that each of us has creative power that can be used to foster right relationship and build the beloved community. Conversely, that power can be used to dominate, oppress and harm others and make the beloved community that much further away from reality. 2010 Ware Lecturer Winona LaDuke, among others, teaches us that the continued domination of the indigenous people of North America is fundamentally in opposition to a theology of right relationship. By perpetuating centuries of injustice rooted in theologies of domination, we keep our culture alienated from the indigenous nations with whom we share the Earth.

There is a profound brokenness deeply embedded in our national identity that calls to us for healing and reconciliation. The Doctrine of Discovery is central to many painful legacies of American history, including the legacies of slavery, the forcible relocation and genocide of Native American peoples and the colonial partitioning of the continent. It is also central to the painful relationship that European-Americans have with their history. Healing is needed. We believe this resolution is a beginning step in the healing of this brokenness, a step toward restoring right relationship among the peoples of this land.

**Why We Are Offering This Resolution at General Assembly 2012**

This resolution has been placed on the General Assembly agenda in keeping with our charge to be accountable to migrant communities and partner organizations in Arizona. In preparing for General Assembly, some of the partner organizations with whom we are working in Arizona asked us specifically to take up this resolution. Coalitions of indigenous peoples and their allies (including many Unitarian Universalists) have been working for many years to get religious groups to repudiate the DOD and to ask the United States to fully implement the tenets of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Episcopal Church of the United States did so in 2009.

The DOD—and the legal ramifications of it to this day—have profound effects on the issues of migration, racial and economic justice, the focus issues of this Justice General Assembly. For example, laws restricting the migration of indigenous peoples across national borders are a direct consequence of a legal system that allowed European colonizers the right to draw those borders through the lands of others. The DOD is also central to the construction of the category of race—and thus the development of racism—in the Western world.

This resolution is being offered as a Responsive Resolution because the UUA By-Laws prevent us from making justice statements through normal business resolutions (and because the 2011 General Assembly passed by-law amendments to remove Actions of Immediate Witness from the General Assembly agenda in 2012). The Board feels that this is an issue that our congregations will need to study and discuss prior to General Assembly, so we are taking the unusual step of submitting it to you in advance for this consideration.
WHEREAS the delegates of the 2010 General Assembly instructed the UUA Board to create a “Justice General Assembly” in 2012, whose business is accountable to partner organizations doing human rights work in Arizona; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association has been asked by partner organizations working with the Arizona Immigration Ministry to educate our member congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery and to pass a resolution repudiating it; and

WHEREAS the UUA Board of Trustees has submitted to the member congregations a report explaining the Doctrine of Discovery and why the Board believes it to be contrary to Unitarian Universalist principles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples globally, and American Indians nationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make a clear and concise statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and its current use in U.S. laws and regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other religious bodies to reject the use of the Doctrine of Discovery to dominate indigenous peoples, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in U.S. law and policy without qualifications. In doing so, we support the establishment of commissions that include accountable representatives of American Indian nations.
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ARTICLE I Name

Section C-1.1. Name.

3 The name of this Association shall be Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the successor to the American Unitarian Association, which was founded in 1825 and incorporated in 1847, and the Universalist Church of America, which was founded in 1793 and incorporated in 1868.

ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes

Section C-2.1. Principles.

10 We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote
12 • The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
13 • Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
14 • Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
16 • A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
17 • The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
19 • The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
20 • Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
22 The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:
23 • Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
26 • Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
29 • Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
31 • Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
33 • Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
36 • Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
39 Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Section C-2.2. Purposes.

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

Section C-2.3. Non-discrimination.

50 The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member congregations and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.
Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.

A church or fellowship upon written notification to the Association may withdraw from the Association at any time. The Board of Trustees may terminate the membership of any congregation that, pursuant to the provisions of Section C-3.5, has been placed in an "inactive congregation" category maintained by the Association but shall do so only after consultation with:

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

*Section C-3.7. Associate Member Qualifications.*

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

The Board of Trustees may adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of associate membership. An associate member organization shall be recognized as a member of the Association during the fiscal year in which it becomes a member, and during each subsequent fiscal year if it has made a financial contribution to the Association during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The Association shall not exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities, or finances of any associate member.

*Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.*

The Board of Trustees may admit to affiliated status those independently constituted and operated organizations whose purposes and intentions it finds to be in sympathy with the principles of the Association, and which terminate such status upon finding that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications or is not in compliance with the rules relating to such organizations. The status granted is that of independent affiliate. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of affiliated status. The requirements shall include financial support of the Association by payment of an annual contribution. The Association shall not exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities, or finances of any independent affiliate.

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

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

Section C-3.10 Members of Member Congregations.

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

ARTICLE IV General Assembly

Section C-4.1. Meetings of the Association.

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

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

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

Section C.4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

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

Section 4.10. Quorum.

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

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The 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 C-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. UUA Statements of Conscience.

The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process is to provide the member congregations of the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue. The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the congregations to take effective action. The process for adoption of UUA Statements of Conscience shall be as follows:

(a) First Cycle Year

1. Each member congregation, district, and sponsored organization (as designated by the Board of Trustees), may submit to the Commission on Social Witness by October 1 in the year preceding a General Assembly one proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue, such suggested Congregational Study/Action Issue to be approved at a duly called meeting of its members or its governing board at which a quorum is present. This commences the process of a four year UUA Statement of Conscience cycle ("the Cycle"). A Cycle year ends at the close of General Assembly.

2. The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Second Cycle Year

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

(2) During the meeting of the General Assembly in the second Cycle year the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.

(c) Third Cycle Year

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

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

(3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll, to be made available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be 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).

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

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

(d) Fourth Cycle Year

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

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

(3) Following the regular meeting of the General Assembly in the fourth Cycle year, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in Section 4.12(a) above.

The Cycle may begin again, as set forth in Section 4.12(a), only after the General Assembly in the second Cycle year of a Congregational Study/Action Issue, and as provided in Sections 4.12(a)(6) and 4.12(d)(3).

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


The 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 4.15. Agenda for Special General Assemblies.

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

(a) the Board of Trustees;

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

or

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

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

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

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

(b) Prior to 2013, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the agenda.

(c) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness 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) Beginning with General Assembly 2013, no more than three General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly.

(3) A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to the agenda must be submitted by a delegate and 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, and shall submit those six actions to the agenda of the General Assembly for possible admission. The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare summaries of no more than six petitions and present those summaries to the General Assembly for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate support. The three petitions receiving the most votes are eligible for admission to the agenda. If there are submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the agenda.

(4) The motion to admit each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness 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 shall be by a two-thirds vote.

(5) 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, 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.

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

(7) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(c) 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 General Assembly.

(d) 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.
Section 4.17. Items Admitted to Special General Assembly Agenda.

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

Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.

General Assemblies shall adopt rules relating to the agenda.


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

ARTICLE V Committees of the Association

Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

(a) the Nominating Committee;

(b) the 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 Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. One third of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each even-numbered year. The elected members of the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for terms of six years. Members of the Nominating Committee shall serve no more than two terms of three years. Any member of 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. Any member of the Nominating Committee in office for a period of more than 18 months shall be deemed to have completed a three-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 5.3. Qualifications of Committee Members.

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

Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.

A member of any standing committee of the Association may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the Board is present, if in the opinion of the Board the member is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office or otherwise for good cause.

Section 5.5. Vacancies.

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

Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine elected members. A member shall not during the term of office hold any salaried position in the Association and, after serving two terms in office, shall not be eligible for re-election to the Nominating Committee until after an interim of at least three years. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of the Association, as provided in Article IX.

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 5.8. General Assembly Planning Committee.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight 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.

Section 5.9. Commission on Appraisal.

The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine elected members. A member shall not during the term of office serve as a trustee or officer or hold a salaried position in the Association. The Commission on Appraisal shall:

(a) review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly;

(b) study and suggest approaches to issues which may be of concern to the Association; and

(c) report to a regular General Assembly at least once every four years on the program and accomplishments of the Association.

Section 5.10. Commission on Social Witness.

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

(a) Each appointment and election of a member to the Commission will be for a term of four years;

(b) One member shall be appointed each odd-numbered year; and

(c) No fewer than one nor more than two members shall be elected each odd-numbered year, as is required to insure a full complement of elected members.
Section 5.11. Board of Review.

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

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

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

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

(b) Election and Term. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year one person who is neither a minister nor a credentialed religious educator shall be elected and shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year there shall be elected either a minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level as described in section (a)(2) above, who shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

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

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

Section 5.12. Additional Committees.

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

Section 5.13. Presiding Officer.

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

Section 5.14. Time and Place of Meetings.

Each committee shall hold meetings at such times and places as it may determine.

Section 5.15. Call and Notice of Meetings.

Meetings of committees may be called by the presiding officer and shall be called by the presiding officer at the request of a majority of the members of the entire committee. Notice of committee meetings shall be given in writing not less than ten nor more than sixty days before the meeting and shall state the time and place of the meeting.

Section 5.16. Transition Provision.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 5.2 and 5.6:

(a) Members of the Nominating Committee elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013 shall be elected to three-year terms.

(b) Members of the Nominating Committee elected prior to the regular General Assembly in 2013 may serve their full six-year terms.

(c) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2018, no person shall be eligible for nomination for a term on the Nominating Committee that would result in more than six years of continuous service.

(d) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2017.
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.

Section 6.8. Vacancies.

(a) Trustee at Large. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee at large shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining trustees until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

(b) Trustee Representing District. A vacancy created by death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee representing a district or by the creation of a new district entitled to be represented by a trustee shall be governed by the bylaws of the district and Section 6.12 of these Bylaws subject to the following limitations:

1. If fewer than two regular General Assemblies have met and adjourned since the General Assembly at which the trustee took office, the governing body of the district shall make an interim appointment until the position is filled by a special election within one year from the date the vacancy occurs;

2. If the vacancy occurs at any other point in the term, either the governing body of the district shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term or the District shall provide for an interim appointment by its governing body until the position is filled by a special election.

An invalid election does not create a vacancy for purposes of this section.

Section 6.9. Place of Meeting.

The Board of Trustees shall hold its meetings at such places as the Board may determine.

Section 6.10. Regular Meetings.

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

Section 6.11. Special Meetings.

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

Section 6.12. Waiver of Notice.

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

Section 6.13. Quorum.

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


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

Section 6.15. Annual Report.

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

ARTICLE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees

Section 7.1. Committees of the Board of Trustees.

The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

(a) the Executive Committee;
(b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;
(c) the Finance Committee;
(d) the Investment Committee;
(e) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and
(f) the Audit Committee.

Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.

Members of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Religious Education Credentialing Committee, and board-appointed members of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year except as otherwise provided herein. Members of such committees shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 7.3. Removal of Committee Member.

Standing committee members appointed by the Board of Trustees serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by it at any time.

Section 7.4. Vacancies.

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

Section 7.5. Executive Committee.

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

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

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

(a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
Section 7.7. Finance Committee.
987 The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the 988 Treasurer, five trustees who shall not be members of the 989 Investment Committee, and the Moderator without vote. The duties 990 of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.

Section 7.8. Investment Committee.
992 The Investment Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, 993 the Treasurer, and five other persons, at least one of whom shall be 994 a trustee and none of whom shall be members of the Finance 995 Committee. The duties of the Investment Committee are set forth in 996 Article X.

Section 7.9. Additional Committees.
998 The Board of Trustees may appoint additional committees to serve 999 at its pleasure and shall determine the membership, qualifications, 1000 and duties thereof.

Section 7.10. Presiding Officer.
1002 The Board of Trustees shall appoint one member of each standing 1003 committee of the Board to be its presiding officer.

Section 7.11. Time and Place of Meetings.
1005 Each standing committee of the Board shall hold meetings at such 1006 times and places as it may determine.

Section 7.12. Call and Notice of Meetings.
1008 Meetings of standing committees of the Board may be called by the 1009 presiding officer and shall be called by the presiding officer at the 1010 request of a majority of the members of the entire committee.
1011 Unless the Board of Trustees otherwise provides, notice of 1012 meetings of each standing committee shall be given in such a 1013 manner and within such time as the standing committee 1014 determines.

Section 7.13. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
1017 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall consist of 1018 seven members as follows:
1019 (a) three members, none of whom is a parish minister, 1020 minister of religious education, community minister, a 1021 credentialed religious educator, or a director of religious 1022 education, appointed by the Board;
1023 (b) one member who is a parish minister or community 1024 minister, appointed by the Board;
1025 (c) one member who is a minister of religious education, 1026 appointed by the Board;
1027 (d) one member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator – 1028 Master Level, appointed by the Board; and
1029 (e) one member nominated by the Board of the Liberal 1030 Religious Educators Association and appointed by the 1031 Board of Trustees.

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over religious education 1032 credentialing with the Association as provided in Article XII thereof. 1034 The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a 1035 member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its 1036 records.

1038 The Audit Committee shall consist of five members as follows:
1039 (a) three persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are 1040 members of the Board or hold a salaried position with the 1041 Association;
1042 (b) the Financial Advisor; and
1043 (c) a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be 1044 appointed by the Board.
1045 No member of the Audit Committee shall serve for more than four 1046 terms on the Audit Committee.

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

ARTICLE VIII Officers of the Association

Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.
1050 (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Association shall 1051 be a President, a Vice-President, and a Financial Advisor. 1052 (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non- 1053 salaried officers of the Association shall include one or more 1054 Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Recording Secretary and 1055 may include such other officers as the Board of Trustees may 1056 appoint.
1057 (c) Appointed Salaried Officers. The appointed salaried officers 1058 of the Association shall include a treasurer, and may include 1059 one or more vice presidents, assistant treasurers, and such 1060 other officers as the Board of Trustees may determine.

Section 8.2. Control by Board of Trustees.
1062 All officers shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board 1063 of Trustees. All appointed officers shall be appointed by the Board 1064 of Trustees and shall serve at its pleasure.

Section 8.3. Term of Office.
1066 (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a 1067 regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall 1068 take office immediately after the close of such General 1069 Assembly.
1070 (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six 1071 years and until his or her successor is elected and 1072 qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; 1073 and any partial term of more than two years served by 1074 reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant 1075 to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full 1076 term for purposes of this subsection.
1077 (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall serve for a term of six 1078 years and until his or her successor is elected and 1079 qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term; 1080 and any partial term of more than two years served by 1081 reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant 1082 to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full 1083 term for purposes of this subsection.
1084 (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for 1085 a term of four years and until his or her successor is 1086 elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve 1087 more than two successive terms; and any partial term 1088 of more than two years served by reason of 1089 appointment and/or election to office pursuant to 1090 subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term 1091 for purposes of this subsection.
1092 (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried 1093 officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and 1094 until their successors are appointed and qualified.
1095 (c) Transition Provision. The bylaw amendment changing the 1096 term of office of the President from four years to a single term 1097 of six years shall become effective for the election of the
1098 President at the regular General Assembly in 2017. The
1099 President elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013
1100 shall not be eligible for election in 2017. The bylaw
1101 amendment changing the term of office of the Moderator from
1102 four years to a single term of six years shall become effective
1103 for the election of the Moderator at the regular General
1104 Assembly in 2013. The bylaw amendment calling for the
1105 election of a Presidential Search Committee (Section 5.2)
1106 shall become effective for the election of members of the
1107 Presidential Search Committee at the regular General
1108 Assembly in 2013. The first two sentences of this transition
1109 provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws
1110 following the regular General Assembly in 2017. The third,
1111 fourth and last sentences of this transition provision shall
1112 automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular
1113 General Assembly in 2013.
1114 Section 8.4. Qualification of Officers.
1115 Each officer of the Association shall be a member of a member
1116 congregation. If an officer ceases to be a member of any member
1117 congregation, such officer shall be disqualified and the office
1118 declared vacant.
1119 Section 8.5. Removal of Officers.
1120 (a) Elected Officers. An elected officer may be removed by a
1121 three-fourths vote of the entire Board of Trustees at a meeting
1122 at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board is
1123 present if in the opinion of the Board such officer is
1124 incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office.
1125 The President may also be removed by such a vote of the
1126 Board if it determines that such removal is in the best
1127 interests of the Association.
1128 (b) Appointed Officers. An appointed officer may be removed by
1129 the Board of Trustees at any time.
1130 Section 8.6. Resignation.
1131 An officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the
1132 Moderator, who shall immediately forward copies to the Board of
1133 Trustees. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time
1134 specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then upon delivery.
1135 Section 8.7. Vacancies.
1136 (a) Elected Officers. A vacancy created by the death,
1137 disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected officer
1138 shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular
1139 General Assembly at which an election can be held. The
1140 vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the
1141 unexpired term, if any.
1142 (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. A vacancy created by the
1143 death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an
1144 appointed non-salaried officer may be filled by the Board of
1145 Trustees for the balance of the unexpired term.
1146 Section 8.8. Moderator.
1147 The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings
1148 of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The
1149 Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and
1150 shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as
1151 Chief Governance Officer of the Association.
1152 Section 8.9. President.
1153 The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association
1154 and shall be a member, ex-officio, without vote, of all standing
1155 committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee
1156 and the Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the
1157 Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the
1158 Religious Education Credentialing Committee.
1159 Section 8.10. Financial Advisor.
1160 The duties of the Financial Advisor are set forth in Article X.
1161 *Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.
1162 In the event an Executive Vice President should be appointed, the
1163 Board of Trustees shall describe his or her duties.
1164 Section 8.12. Vice Moderators.
1165 The Vice Moderator or Moderators shall be elected from among the
1166 members of the Board of Trustees by its members. In the absence
1167 of the Moderator a Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings and
1168 perform the duties of the Moderator. A Vice Moderator shall
1169 perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. In the
1170 event that more than one Vice Moderator is elected, one of the Vice
1171 Moderators shall be designated First Vice Moderator.
1172 Section 8.13. Vice Presidents.
1173 Any Vice President appointed shall have such powers and shall
1174 perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees
1175 or as assigned by the President in conformity with any provisions of
1176 the Board appointment.
1177 Section 8.14. Secretary.
1178 The Secretary shall be appointed from among the members of the
1179 Board of Trustees and shall perform all duties usually pertaining to
1180 the office, except those of a Clerk under Massachusetts law. The
1181 Secretary shall represent the Association on special occasions and
1182 shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association.
1183 Section 8.15. Treasurer.
1184 The duties of the Treasurer are set forth in Article X.
1185 Section 8.16. Recording Secretary.
1186 The Recording Secretary shall at all times be a resident of the
1187 Commonwealth of Massachusetts and upon being appointed shall
1188 be sworn to the faithful performance of the duties of the office. If
1189 the Recording Secretary ceases to be a resident of the
1190 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, such person shall be disqualified
1191 and the office declared vacant. The Recording Secretary shall keep
1192 an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board
1193 of Trustees, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by
1194 the Board, and shall perform the duties of a Clerk under
1195 Massachusetts law.
1196 Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.
1197 The Board of Trustees may appoint such other officers as it deems
1198 necessary and shall fix their powers and duties.
1199 Section 8.18. Compensation.
1200 The Moderator, the Financial Advisor, and the appointed non-
1201 salaried officers shall not receive compensation for their services
1202 but shall be reimbursed as determined by the Board of Trustees for
1203 expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their
1204 duties.
1205 Section 8.19. Reports by Officers.
1206 The Moderator, the President, the Financial Advisor, and the
1207 Treasurer shall each make an annual report to the member
1208 congregations and to each regular General Assembly.

ARTICLE IX Nominations and Elections

Section 9.1. Elective Positions.
1211 The elective positions of the Association include the elective
1212 positions at large and those trustee positions where the election
1213 occurs at the district level. The elective positions at large of the
1214 Association are those of the elected officers, those trustees not
1215 elected at the district level, and the elected members of the
1216 standing committees of the Association. No person shall hold more
1217 than one elective position at a time whether by election or
1218 appointment. Ex officio positions for the purposes of this Bylaw
Section 9.2. Nomination Procedures.

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

Section 9.3. Notice by Nominating Committee.

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

Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.

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

Section 9.5. Nomination 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 no fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.

(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 no less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. Nominations for youth trustee at large shall be so designated.

Section 9.7. Qualifications of Nominees.

Each person nominated for an elective position at large shall be a member of a member congregation. No person shall be nominated for more than one such elective position. If a person is nominated for more than one such elective position, the Secretary of the Association shall so notify such person in writing and such person shall have twenty days from the date of the notice to select one nomination which is acceptable. In the absence of a timely selection, all such nominations shall be void and the person shall be so notified in writing by the Secretary.

Section 9.8. Vacancy in Nominations.

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

Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.

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

The Secretary's decision shall be final. The Secretary shall remain neutral in the election and shall not engage in electioneering, except for advocacy of his or her own candidacy for offices for which he or she is nominated.

Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.

(a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written ballot, except that if only one person has been validly nominated for each elective position at large the persons so nominated shall be declared elected and no ballots shall be required.

(b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by accredited delegates from certified member congregations and certified associate member organizations to the regular General Assembly at which the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast more than one ballot.

(c) Absentee Voting. Those entitled to cast ballots in an election may cast their ballots by mail. Absentee ballots shall be mailed at least forty-five days prior to the General Assembly at which the election is being held. An absentee ballot must be received by the Secretary not less than seven calendar days before the General Assembly in order to be counted.

Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

(a) For President. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for President, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for President, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc. choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one
candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two
candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the
greater number of votes is elected.

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

*Section 9.12. Nominations and Elections of Trustees
Representing Districts.

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

Time of Election. The election of a district trustee, except an
election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 8.8(b), shall be
held not less than 45 nor more than 300 days before the
regular General Assembly following which such trustee is to
take office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Certification of Election. The secretary of the district or such
other officer as may be designated in the district
bylaws shall certify the results of the election to the Secretary


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


(a) The amendments to Sections 6.3, 6.4(a) 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 8.3,
8.7, 9.1, 9.3, and 9.6(a) shall become effective at the close of
the regular General Assembly in 2013.

(b) The amendments to Sections 6.4(b), 9.4, 9.8(b), 9.11, 9.12,
and Rule 9-9.12 shall become effective at the close of
the regular General Assembly in 2012.

(c) The terms of all trustees shall expire at the close of the
regular General Assembly in 2013.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 9.4., for elections at
the regular General Assembly in 2013:

1. The Board of Trustees shall appoint, not later than
October 31, 2012, from among its current members,
four members, for specified numbered seats, to each
serve a two-year term beginning immediately after the
close of the regular General Assembly in 2013. No
member whose service on the Board of Trustees began
prior to June 2009 shall be eligible for selection for such
term.

2. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more
candidates to run for election to each of seven
additional positions: four positions with a one-year term
and three positions with a three-year term. These
candidates may or may not be current members of the
Board of Trustees.

3. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more
candidates for election to a three-year term as Financial
Advisor.

4. Candidates may be nominated by petition for the Board of
Trustees or the Financial Advisor, as specified in
Section 9.6.

5. A report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with
the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all
certified member congregations, associate member
organizations, and trustees on or before December 10,
2012.

(e) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2019, no
trustee shall be eligible for nomination for a term that
would result in more than six years of continuous service.

(f) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from
the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2018.

ARTICLE X  Finance and Contracts

*Section 10.1. Annual Budget.

The annual budget of the Association shall be adopted and may
subsequently be amended by the Board of Trustees. A budget or
Section 10.2. Duties of Finance Committee.

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

Section 10.3. Duties of Financial Advisor.

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

Section 10.4. Duties of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers.

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

Section C-10.5. Raising of Funds.

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

Section C-10.6. Funds Held for Others.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Association may hold for investment and distribution funds belonging to or given for the benefit of a member congregation, associate member organization, independent affiliate organization, or other organizations. Such funds may be invested in the General Investment Fund of the Association unless they are subject to specific restrictions which require some other form of investment.

Section C-10.7. Responsibility for Investments.

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

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

Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.

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

Section C-10.9. Pension System.

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

Section 10.10. Fiscal Year.

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

Section C-10.11. Corporate Seal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If authorized in the same manner specified above for compromise payments, expenses, including attorney's fees actual and necessarily incurred by any such person in connection with the defense or disposition of any such action, suit or proceeding may be paid from time to time by the Association in advance of the final disposition thereof upon receipt of (a) an affidavit of such individual of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under this Section and (b) an undertaking by such individual to repay the amount so paid to the Association if such person shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under this Section, which undertaking may be accepted without reference to the financial ability of such person to make repayment. The right of indemnification herein provided shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of each such trustee, [or] officer, employee or volunteer and shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any such person may be entitled under any statute, bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise or to
which any such person might have been entitled were it not for this
 provision. As used in this Section, an “interested” trustee or officer
 is one against whom in such capacity the proceeding in question, or
 other proceeding on the same or similar grounds, is then pending.

Section 10.13. Duties of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee shall oversee the annual audit of the financial
 statements of the Association by an independent certified public
 accounting firm and monitor the establishment and implementation
 of accounting policies and internal controls. Specific duties of the
 Audit Committee shall be set forth in a charter adopted by the Board
 which may be amended by the Board from time to time.

ARTICLE XI Ministry

Section C-11.1. Ministerial Fellowship.

Each member congregation has the exclusive right to call and
 ordain its own minister or ministers, but the Association has the
 exclusive right to admit ministers to ministerial fellowship with the
 Association. Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish, religious
 education and/or community ministry as determined by action of the
 Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

No minister shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed,
 belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold
 fellowship.

*Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

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

Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.

A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial
 Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of
 these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of
 the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be
 admitted to preliminary fellowship for a period of at least three
 years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to
 final fellowship.

Section 11.4. Fellowship Records.

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

Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and
 Administrative Suspension.

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

Section 11.6. Reinstatement to Fellowship.

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

Section 11.7. Appeal.

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

Section 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.

An appeal to the Board of Review may be heard by a panel of the
 Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its
 panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of
 the Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s decision, and the information
 presented to the Committee, including the documents and other
 evidence compiled during the Fellowship Review, and the reasons
 articulated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for its decision
 terminating the minister’s fellowship. If the minister requests
 consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously
 presented to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, then the matter
 shall be returned to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for
 consideration of that evidence before the Board proceeds with the
 appeal. These Bylaws and the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship
 Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel.

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s determination of fact and/or
 credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder
 could have reached such determination, and disputes of fact are to
 be resolved in favor of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s
determination. The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the
 decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee only where
 necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of
 Review or its panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the
 Committee or take such other action as may be just. The Board of
 Review or its panel shall set forth its findings and conclusions and
 will serve upon the affected minister and the Ministerial Fellowship
 Committee. The decision shall be entered in the fellowship records
 and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be
 allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of
 Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section.

ARTICLE XII Religious Education Credentialing

Section 12.1. Religious Education Credentialing.

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

Section 12.2. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

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

Section 12.3. Achievement of Religious Education
 Credentialing Status.

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

Section 12.4. Religious Education Credentialing Levels.

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall adopt rules
 related to levels of religious education credentialing as follows:

Religious education credentialing includes Credentialed Religious
 Educator – Associate Level status, credentialled religious educator
 status, and Credentialled Religious Educator – Master Level status
 as determined by action of the Religious Education Credentialing
 Committee.

Section 12.5. Religious Education Credentialing Records.

The Executive Secretary of the Religious Education Credentialing
 Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all religious
 educators who have achieved a status as a religious educator as
1721 described in Section 12.4 of these bylaws. These records shall be
1722 available only to members of the committee, persons designated by
1723 the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.
1724 Section 12.6. Termination or Administrative Suspension
1725 of Religious Education Credentialing Status.
1726 The religious education credentialing status of a religious educator
1727 may be terminated by the Religious Education Credentialing
1728 Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or other
1729 specified cause. Credentialing status may be terminated only after
1730 notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Religious Education
1731 Credentialing Status Review before the Committee. During an
1732 investigation or the pending of a complaint, the Religious Education
1733 Credentialing Committee may suspend a religious educator’s
1734 credentialing status until a final determination can be made.
1735 Section 12.7. Reinstatement of Religious Education
1736 Credentialing Status.
1737 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee may reinstate in
1738 or readmit to religious education credentialing status a religious
1739 educator who has previously resigned from religious education
1740 credentialing status or whose religious education credentialing
1741 status has lapsed, been suspended or terminated.
1742 Section 12.8. Appeal.
1743 A religious educator with a religious education credentialing status
1744 whose status is terminated may appeal the determination of the
1745 Religious Education Credentialing Committee to the Board of
1746 Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to
1747 hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed
1748 from any decision of the Religious Education Credentialing
1749 Committee.
1750 Section 12.9. Procedure on Appeal.
1751 An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the
1752 Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its
1753 panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of
1754 the Religious Education Credentialing Committee’s decision,
1755 including the documents and other evidence compiled during the
1756 Religious Education Credentialing Status Review, and the reasons
1757 articulated by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for
1758 its decision terminating the religious educator’s credentialing status.
1759 If the religious educator requests consideration of newly discovered
1760 evidence, not previously presented to the Religious Education
1761 Credentialing Committee, then the matter shall be returned to the
1762 Religious Education Credentialing Committee for consideration of
1763 that evidence before the Board proceeds with the appeal. These
1764 Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Religious Education Credentialing
1765 Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel.
1766 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee’s determination
1767 of fact and/or credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable
1768 fact finder could have reached such determination, and disputes of
1769 fact are to be resolved in favor of the Religious Education
1770 Credentialing Committee’s determination.
1771 The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the decision of the
1772 Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary
1773 to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of Review or its
1774 panel may remand the case in whole or part to the Religious
1775 Education Credentialing Committee or take such other action as
1776 may be just. The Board of Review or its panel shall set forth its
1777 finding and conclusions and shall be communicated to the affected
1778 religious educator and the Religious Education Credentialing
1779 Committee. The decision shall be entered in the religious education
1780 credentialing records and shall be final and binding upon all parties.
1781 No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of
1782 Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the
1783 intent of this section.

ARTICLE XIII Regional Organizations
Section C-13.1. Districts.
1786 The Association shall support areas of regional responsibility known
1787 as districts.

*Section C-13.2. Establishment.
1789 The establishment of districts and the manner of determining which
1790 congregations are included in each district shall be in accordance
1791 with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

Section 13.3. Members.
1793 All member congregations of the Association located within the
1794 district shall be entitled to be member congregations of that district.

Section 13.4. Autonomy.
1796 Each district shall be autonomous and shall be controlled by its own
1797 member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of
1798 the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its
1799 member congregations.

Section 13.5. District Bylaws.
Each district shall adopt bylaws which are not in conflict with these
2012 Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV Rules
Section 14.1. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by
General Assemblies.
A General Assembly may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these
Bylaws. Adoption or amendment of Rules by a General Assembly
shall be by two-thirds vote. Each Rule adopted by a General
Assembly shall be identified by a "G" preceding its rule number. A
General Assembly may amend or repeal Rules adopted by prior
General Assemblies or by the Board of Trustees, if the proposed
Rules or amendments have been placed on the agenda. Rules and
amendments thereto shall be submitted for inclusion on the agenda
in the same manner as other resolutions. The provisions of this
Section 14.1 do not apply to the Rules of Procedure contemplated
by Section 4.19.

Section 14.2. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by the
Board of Trustees.
The Board of Trustees may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these
Bylaws and with Rules adopted by General Assemblies and may
amend or repeal its Rules.

Section 14.3. Rules of Order.
The Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of
Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to
which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent
with these Bylaws and any Rules that may be adopted hereunder.

ARTICLE XV Amendment
Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.
(a) These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a
regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has
been placed on the agenda; provided, however, that
proposals to amend or repeal a section of these Bylaws
whose section number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter a "C
Bylaw"), or to add a new such section, shall be governed by
subsections (b) or (c) hereof.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) If no review and study process of Article II has occurred
for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall
appoint a commission to review and study Article II and to
recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto the
Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall review
the recommendations of the study commission and, in its
discretion, may submit the recommendations of the study
commission to the Planning Committee for inclusion on

the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained
herein, proposals to amend Article II which are
promulgated by a study commission in accordance with
this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval
process. Such proposals must be approved preliminarily
by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall
be placed on the agenda of the next regular General
Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require
a two-thirds vote.

*Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.
Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:
(a) the Board of Trustees;
(b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
(c) the Commission on Appraisal;
d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action
of their governing boards or their congregations; such
proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the
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.

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

RULE 1 Name
No existing rules applicable to Article I.

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

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

Implementing this rule shall be the responsibility of the Board of
Trustees. The Board shall designate a specific person or
committee to whom comments about adherence to this rule may be
1970 addressed. The Board shall report to the General Assembly annually for the next three years on its implementation.

RULE III Membership

1972 Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.

1973 Rule 3.3.1. New Congregations.

1974 It is the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association to encourage 1976 and assist the development of new congregations as well as to 1977 support and aid existing member congregations as stated in the 1978 purposes of the Association.

1979 Rule 3.3.2. Procedure for Admission.

1980 A church or fellowship may become a member of the Association upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Association of a 1982 written application for membership.

1983 The application shall include:

1984 (a) a statement that the applicant subscribes to the principles of 1985 the Association and pledges itself to support the Association;

1986 (b) a copy of the articles of incorporation or other organizing 1987 documents and the bylaws of the applicant;

1988 (c) the names and addresses of the charter members sufficient in 1989 number to satisfy the minimum membership requirements;

1990 and

1991 (d) an initial payment in an amount of no less than the Fair Share 1992 contribution to the Association’s Annual Program Fund, pro-rated for the portion of the Association’s fiscal year remaining 1994 as of the date of application.

1995 Rule 3.3.3. Membership Requirements for Admission.

1996 A new congregation, to be recognized as a member of the 1997 Association, must have thirty (30) of its adult members be members 1998 solely of the new congregation.

1999 Rule 3.3.4. Multiple Local Congregations.

2000 In many communities the liberal religious movement may be better 2001 served by the establishment of two or more member congregations.

2002 (a) It is ordinarily desirable that a new congregation should have 2003 the active support and sponsorship of any member congregation or congregations located in the same 2004 geographic area.

2005 (b) The Association will neither initiate nor recognize such a new 2006 congregation until after the Association has consulted by mail 2007 or by interview with any member congregation or congregations located in the same geographic area. Such 2008 consultation shall include a request for letters from the 2009 presiding officer of the congregation’s governing board and 2010 minister of such congregation(s) stating judgment regarding the establishment and/or recognition of the new congregation.

2011 The Association may proceed to assist in organizing or 2012 recognizing the new congregation despite local protest or 2013 objection if the Association believes that such action is in the 2014 best interests of the entire movement and that it will 2015 strengthen the total Unitarian Universalist position in the community.

2020 Rule 3.3.5. Rules and Regulations for New Congregations.

2022 It is essential that Unitarian Universalist congregations be 2023 affirmative in spirit, inclusive in fellowship, and mutually supportive 2024 in their relationships with other congregations. The following 2025 statements represent the Association’s best judgment as to the 2026 meaning of this general statement and shall be used by staff and 2027 the Board in determining action upon applications for membership.

2028 (a) In receiving the application of a new congregation for membership in the Association, the Congregational Services 2030 staff shall satisfy itself that the group is making its application in good faith and that it will make a sincere effort to carry out the purposes of the Association. (See specifically Article II of the Bylaws.)

2034 (b) The Association interprets its statements of purpose to mean that no congregation may be accepted into membership if its bylaws exclude from its local membership any person because of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin.

2040 (c) All member congregations must be congregational in polity; the final authority to make decisions must be vested in the legal membership of the congregation.

2043 (d) Member congregations shall project and embark upon a balanced program of religious activity including adult worship and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of a church school in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

2047 (e) New congregations are expected to establish and maintain cooperative relations with Unitarian Universalist agencies, as appropriate and feasible.

2050 (f) A congregation should be incorporated when possible under the laws of the state in which it exists. A congregation shall include in its articles of incorporation or other organizing documents a clause providing that the assets of the congregation will be transferred upon dissolution to the Association. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a congregation obtains the prior written consent of the Association’s Board of Trustees, the congregation may name an organization that is affiliated with the Association (such as a district, camp, conference center or other congregation) as the recipient of the congregation’s assets upon dissolution.

2061 Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.

2062 The order of administrative procedure.

2063 (a) Application for congregational membership in the Association will first be referred to UUA staff.

2065 (b) UUA staff will seek information and advice with respect to all applications as follows:

2067 U.S. Congregations – District President

2068 Other Congregations – Executive Officer of appropriate Unitarian or Universalist or Unitarian Universalist international group, if any.

2071 (c) UUA staff will make its recommendation to the President of the Association, and the President shall then make recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the UUA for its final action.

2075 Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.

2076 Rule 3.5.1. Required Annual Report.

2077 In each fiscal year of the Association (July 1 to June 30), each member congregation shall file with the Secretary of the Association an Annual Report on the form and in the manner provided by the Association. The Annual Report shall include a certification by a 2081 minister or principal officer of the member congregation stating (a) whether or not the member congregation complied with the conditions set forth in Section C-3.5 of the Bylaws during the Association’s prior fiscal year and (b) that the information provided to the Association in the Annual Report is true and correct to the best of the minister’s or principal officer’s knowledge.

2087 For purposes of determining compliance with Section C-3.5 of the Bylaws, a member congregation shall be deemed to have conducted ‘regular religious services’ if it has held at least 10 services during the fiscal year.
2091 A member congregation’s Annual Report for a particular fiscal year
2092 and, if submitted separately, the related certification must be
2093 received by the Association on or before February 1 following the
2094 close of that fiscal year whenever the regular General Assembly
2095 opens in June and otherwise on or before the close of business on
2096 the last business day which is at least 110 days before the date of
2097 the General Assembly next following the close of that fiscal year. If
2098 a member congregation’s related certification is not received by the
2099 applicable deadline, it will still be deemed timely filed if the member
2100 congregation submits to the Association proof that it was mailed in
2101 accordance with the provisions of Rule G-13.4.2. Such proof may
2102 be in the form of a stamped or validated receipt for Registered or
2103 Certified Mail or a sworn statement attesting to the proper
2104 submission of the certification signed by the person responsible for
2105 its mailing.
2106
2107 In September of each year UUA staff shall initiate the process of
2108 contacting congregations in the inactive category to determine their
2109 status.
2110
2111 This process includes:
2112 requesting a list of congregations that have failed to submit
2113 an annual report for three consecutive fiscal years
2114 forwarding this list to the UUA’s District Staff with copies to
2115 District Presidents and District Trustees for their information
2116 upon receipt of the annual inactive congregations list and
2117 pursuant to the UUA’s by-laws section C-3.6, the UUA’s
2118 District staff shall follow up with any congregation in their
2119 district
2120 after follow up the District staff shall make a recommendation
2121 about each congregation’s status to the UUA Board for action
2122 at its April meeting.

2123 It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees to limit admissions to
2124 associate membership to major continent-wide organizations.

2125 Each associate member organization shall in all aspects of its work
2126 refrain from the practice of segregation based on race, ethnicity,
2127 gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language,
2128 citizenship status, economic status, or national origin. This rule is
2129 not intended to preclude associate member organizations designed
2130 to benefit groups organized to ensure their fuller participation in the
2131 larger society and to fulfill their unique spiritual needs.

2132 Each applicant for membership shall submit with its application:
2133 an attested copy of its charter and, unless it is included in the
2134 charter, an attested copy of its purposes, objectives, and
2135 bylaws;
2136 the approximate number of members in the organization;
2137 a list of principal officers with their personal mail addresses
2138 and the principal mail address of the organization;
2139 a financial statement showing income and expenses for the
2140 latest fiscal year preceding the date of filing and showing
2141 assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of such fiscal
2142 year;
2143 the dates upon which its governing board met during the
2144 twelve months immediately preceding the date of filing;
2145 any yearly reports of its governing body and its principal
2146 officers sent to members during the twelve months
2147 immediately preceding the date of filing;
2148 evidence that it enjoys tax exempt status;

2149 under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue
2150 Code of 1954;
2151 as a registered charity as provided for in the Income
2152 Tax Act (Canada); or
2153 under the laws of the country governing the applicant’s
2154 tax status;
2155 if the applicant does not enjoy tax exempt status, the reason
2156 or reasons it does not;
2157 a statement outlining the intended use of associate
2158 membership, if granted, and the goals and objectives of the
2159 organization that will be served by such use;
2160 a statement outlining what advantage it is believed there
2161 would be to the Association and to the furtherance of the
2162 principles of the Association outlined in Bylaw Section C-
2163 2.2; and
2164 any other information which the Board of Trustees of the
2165 Association shall require.

2166 The contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10.

2167 Except in the year when it is admitted to membership, each
2168 associate member shall send to the Association on or before April
2169 30 an annual report which shall include the data required by
2170 subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Rule 3.7.3 and any other
2171 information which the Board of Trustees shall require and (ii) the
2172 contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10. If an associate member
2173 fails to comply with the provisions of this Rule, the Board of
2174 Trustees shall at its next regular meeting consider a finding of non-
2175 compliance and the termination of the associate membership status
2176 of such organization.

2177 It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees to limit admissions to
2178 associate membership to major continent-wide organizations.

2179 No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an
2180 associate member of the Association until such membership is
2181 voted by the Board of Trustees; and if and when an organization’s
2182 associate membership expires or it is terminated, that organization
2183 shall immediately cease to claim, represent or imply in any manner
2184 that it is an associate member of the Association.

2185 Each associated member shall place the Association on its regular
2186 mailing list.

2187 Before granting associate membership, the Board of Trustees shall
2188 determine that the granting of such associate membership is likely
2189 to be of substantial benefit to the Unitarian Universalist movement.

2200 Associate membership for all new or existing associate members
2201 shall be granted by the Board of Trustees for a designated one year
2202 period or portion thereof.

2203 The contribution required to be submitted with an application for
2204 associate membership is $500 for any applicant whose budget for
2205 the 12 months preceding its application for associate membership
2206 was $1,000,000 or more and $250 for any applicant whose budget
2207 for the 12 months preceding its application for associate
2208 membership was less than $1,000,000. The contribution required
2209 to be submitted with an associate member’s annual report is $500
2210 for any associate member whose budget for the 12 months

2211 UUA Bylaws: 18
Bylaws

Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.


Each applicant for independent affiliate status shall submit with its application:

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

(b) the number of members or member groups in the organization;

(c) a list of the principal officers with their personal mail addresses, congre
gregation membership or congregation where settled if the officer is a fellow
shiped minister serving a Unitarian Universalist congregation, and the principal mail address of the organization;

(d) the contribution contemplated by rule 3.8.9;

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

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

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

(h) evidence of whether it enjoys tax exempt status:

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

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

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

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

(j) a statement outlining how its purpose, mission and structure models interdependence through engagement with our member congregations, coordination or collaboration of effort and resources; and a statement outlining how the organization supports the transformation of institutions and our world to be aligned with those values expressed in our Principles; and

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

Rule 3.8.2. Non-Segregation.

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

This rule is not intended to preclude independent affiliate organizations designed to benefit groups organized to ensure their fuller participation in the larger society and to fulfill their unique spiritual needs.

Rule 3.8.3. Annual Contribution and Report.

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


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

Rule 3.8.5. Representation of Independent Affiliate Status.

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

Rule 3.8.6. Mailing List.

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


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


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


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

RULE IV General Assembly

Section 4.6. Notice of Meetings.

Mailing of Notice.

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

Such notice shall be given by the Secretary or the Recording Secretary.

Time of Notice.

Notice so sent shall be sufficient if mailed at Boston, Massachusetts, sixty days before any such General Assembly.

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

Content of Notice.

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

ULUA Bylaws: 19
Section C-4.7. Voting.

Rule C-4.7.1. Recording the Vote on Resolutions.

The vote on resolutions shall be recorded as having been adopted:

(a) unanimously; or

(b) by a vote of two-thirds or more; or

(c) by a specified vote for or against.

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

Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

Rule C-4.9.1. Number of Delegates.

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

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

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

Rule C-4.9.2. Settled Ministers.

A settled minister for the purpose of accreditation as a delegate pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.8 (b) is (a) a minister engaged by a certified member congregation in compensated ministerial activities which constitute fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule or (b) a community minister who (1) maintains active involvement in such congregation, (2) has written agreement with the congregation, (3) is in affiliation with the congregation; and (4) is compensated for community ministry work which constitutes fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule recognized by the congregation as ministry. A congregation is entitled to the number of settled ministers of accredited community ministry minister to the number of delegates to which it is entitled by Bylaw Section 4.8(a).

A minister emeritus shall have previously settled in such congregation as described in this Rule. A certified member congregation shall certify in writing that its minister delegates meet the criteria for minister in accordance with this Rule.

Rule C-4.9.3. Mailing of Credential Cards.

Not less than forty-five days prior to each General Assembly, the Secretary of the Association shall send to each certified member congregation and associate member organization entitled to be represented by delegates the proper number of delegate credentials. The Secretary shall also furnish trustees with requested credentials.

Rule C-4.9.4. Issuance of Duplicate Credential Card.

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

(e) the name of the congregation or associate member organization involved;

(b) in the case of a delegate representing a member congregation other than a settled minister or emeritus/minister or an accredited director of religious education, a statement that the applicant is a member of that congregation; or in the case of a delegate representing an associate member organization, a statement that the applicant is a member of a certified member congregation;

(c) a statement that the person was designated as a delegate under established procedures of the congregation or is a settled minister or emeritus/minister thereof or is an accredited director of religious education employed in the congregation, or was designated as a delegate of an associate member organization; and

(d) a brief statement as to why the applicant is not able to present an official and properly executed accrediting card.

Rule C-4.9.5. Alternate Delegates.

Each certified member congregation may, in accordance with its own Bylaws or procedures, designate alternate delegates to any General Assembly in such number, not in excess of the number of delegates to which it is entitled, as it may determine. Alternate delegates shall be members of the certified member congregation they represent. All alternates appointed must be provided by the member congregation with a certification of their appointment signed by an officer of the congregation.

Rule C-4.9.6. Delegate Status.

Delegates and alternates may be designated to attend each General Assembly to be held in any fiscal year of the Association or only a particular General Assembly as each member congregation shall determine.

Rule C-4.9.7. Issuance of Alternate Credentials.

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

Rule C-4.9.8. Payment of Registration Fee.

All delegates, alternates and trustees must pay a registration fee in order to be admitted to the floor and vote at the General Assembly.

Rule C-4.9.9. Amount of Fees.

The registration fee shall be set by the Board of Trustees.


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


The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare and (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 Pol... Each proposed Congregational Study/Issue that appears on the Tentative Agenda shall be...
accompanied by previous General Resolutions, actions and
2459 statements on related issues, with dates (if applicable), and the
2460 names or number of congregations submitting issues included
2461 within such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue.
2462 Rule G.4.12.3 Report on Implementation of UUA
2463 Statements of Conscience.
2464 The UUA Administration shall report at each regular General
2465 Assembly regarding implementation of UUA Statements of
2466 Conscience with particular reference to the most recently adopted
2467 Statement of Conscience. Such report shall summarize
2468 implementation by member congregations, Districts, UUA staff and
2469 other Unitarian Universalist groups.
2470 Rule 4.12.4 Mini-Assembly on UUA Statement of
2471 Conscience
2472 During the regular General Assembly referred to in Section
2473 4.12(d)(1), a mini-assembly shall be held during which the proposed
2474 amendments to the revised UUA Statement of Conscience shall be
2475 accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available
2476 in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social
2477 Witness shall finalize the UUA Statement of Conscience, and the
2478 chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in consultation
2479 with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian
2480 and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for
2481 consideration by the General Assembly.
2482 Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular
2483 General Assemblies.
2484 Rule G.4.16.1. General Assembly Actions of Immediate
2485 Witness, and Responsive Resolutions.
2486 The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers
2487 practical to advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early
2488 as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of any actions or
2489 resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the
2490 Final Agenda and which are admitted to the agenda pursuant to
2491 Article IV, Section 4.16 of the Bylaws; and some time shall be
2492 scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the action(s) or resolution(s) can
2493 discuss the action or resolution with those interested.
2494 Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.
2495 Rule G.4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and
2496 Districts.
2497 By November 1 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly
2498 opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days
2499 before each regular General Assembly, each certified member
2500 congregation and district shall be notified of the dates for submitting
2501 items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be
2502 followed, and the forms to be used.
2503 Rule G.4.18.2. Business Resolutions and Study/Action
2504 Issues for Social Justice.
2505 A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice is one that deals with issues
2506 of public policy within the province of the Department of Faith in
2507 Action. A Business Resolution directly involves the administration
2508 and structure of the Association.
2509 Any resolution submitted which, taken as a whole, has as its
2510 purpose the making of a statement of social concern or principle
2511 shall be deemed to be a Study/Action Issue for Social Justice.
2512 A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice or a UUA Statement of
2513 Conscience appearing on the Final Agenda shall not be amended
2514 so as to become a Business Resolution.
2515 Rule G.4.18.3. Congregational Poll.
2516 At the time of the mailing of the Tentative Agenda each certified
2517 member congregation shall be requested to report by February 1,
2518 on a form provided whether it recommends or does not recommend
2519 for action by the General Assembly the Business Resolutions,
2520 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues in the first Cycle
2521 year, and draft UUA Statements of Conscience in the Fourth Cycle
2522 year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2)
2523 appearing on the Tentative Agenda, including the alternative
2524 versions of Business Resolutions (if any) submitted by the Board of
2525 Trustees. The recommendation with respect to each proposed
2526 resolution or issue must be certified by the minister, clerk or
2527 president of that congregation as being within the procedures of that
2528 congregation. Only a Business Resolution which a majority of the
2529 congregations voting on the resolution recommends for the action
2530 shall be eligible to be included on the Final Agenda from the
2531 Congregational Poll. If there is more than one version of a
2532 Business Resolution on the Tentative Agenda, the subject of the
2533 resolution shall be considered a single item on the Tentative
2534 Agenda and the Congregational Poll. All versions shall be listed
2535 consecutively within that item. An aye vote by a congregation for
2536 one or more versions shall be counted an aye vote for inclusion of a
2537 resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the
2538 subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for
2539 inclusion on the Final Agenda, the version that receives the highest
2540 number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one
2541 eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business
2542 Resolutions eligible from the Congregational Poll, the Board of
2543 Trustees shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the eight
2544 Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of
2545 "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Poll. The
2546 Board of Trustees may also include on the Final Agenda alternative
2547 versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to those
2548 selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle year,
2549 the Board of Trustees also shall include on the Final Agenda not
2550 more than the five proposed Congregational Study/Action issues
2551 receiving a majority of votes and the highest number of
2552 "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Directives
2553 for General Assembly Action, provided that at least twenty-five
2554 percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for
2555 such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. If the number
2556 of proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues recommended for
2557 action in the Congregational Poll exceeds five and there is more
2558 than one such issue in fifth position as a result of a tie vote, all
2559 issues in fifth position shall be referred to the Final Agenda by the
2560 Commission on Social Witness. In the fourth Cycle year, or any
2561 additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2), the Board of
2562 Trustees shall further include on the Final Agenda a proposed UUA
2563 Statement of Conscience, provided that at least twenty-five percent
2564 (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such
2565 draft UUA Statement of Conscience. A report of the vote by which
2566 each resolution on the Tentative Agenda was or was not
2567 "recommended for action" shall be included on the Final Agenda.
2568 All Business Resolutions that are included on the Final Agenda
2569 shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-
2570 assembly.
2571 Rule 4.18.4. Matters Submitted by Districts
2572 In the event that a proposed amendment to a Rule or to a Business
2573 Resolution that was submitted by a district is to be considered at a
2574 General Assembly, the district that submitted the proposed
2575 amendment or resolution may, in accordance with its own
2576 procedures, designate a representative to speak in support of the
2577 amendment or resolution at the General Assembly. The
2578 representative must be provided by the district with a certification
2579 of the representative’s appointment signed by an officer of the district.
2582 The Board of Trustees shall offer rules of procedure for adoption at
2583 the first session of each General Assembly.
RULE V Committees of the Association
2585 No existing rules applicable to Article V.

RULE VI Board of Trustees
2586 Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.
2587 Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes.
2588 The Trustees representing districts are divided into the following two
groups:
2591 GROUP A
2592 Clara Barton
2593 Florida
2594 Mid-South
2595 Mountain Desert
2596 Ohio Meadville
2597 Pacific Northwest
2598 Pacific Southwest
2599 Southeast
2600 St. Lawrence
2601
2602 Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.
2603 Rule 6.6.1. Multiple Memberships.
2604 For purposes of applying the Bylaw provision that no more than one
2605 trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation, a
2606 person holding membership in more than one member congregation
2607 shall be treated as being a member only of that member
2608 congregation whose services such person most regularly attends.
2609 The Secretary shall make any determinations required by this rule,
2610 subject to appeal to the Board of Trustees, with the affected trustee
2611 or trustees not voting.

Rule 6.6.2. Implementation of Section 6.6.
2613 If at the close of a General Assembly election, the results are such
2614 that, except for the provisions of Section 6.6, more than one person
2615 from the same congregation would serve at the same time on the
2616 Board of Trustees,
2617 (a) if the conflict arises solely from the election just held the
2618 Secretary of the Association shall thereupon declare that the
2619 persons so elected are disqualified and that the offices to
2620 which they have been so elected are vacant and are to be
2621 filled as provided in the Bylaws.
2622 (b) if the conflict arises because one person from a congregation
2623 is already serving on the Board of Trustees and another
2624 person from that congregation has just been so elected the
2625 Secretary of the Association shall declare that the person just
2626 elected is disqualified and the office to which such person has
2627 been elected is vacant and that the vacancy is to be filled as
2628 provided in the Bylaws.

RULE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees
2630 No existing rules applicable to Article VII.

RULE VIII Officers of the Association
2632 Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.
2633 Rule 8.1.1. Officers Enumerated.
2634 The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include an
2635 Executive Vice President.

Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.
2637 Rule 8.11.1. Executive Vice President.
2638 The Executive Vice President shall have responsibility under the
2639 President for the administrative affairs of the Association and shall
2640 perform such other duties as may be assigned to such officer.

Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.
2642 Rule 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.
2643 The members serving without pay on the Ministerial Fellowship
2644 Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committees are
2645 designated as officers of the Association for the purposes, only, of
2646 carrying out their duties as members of such committees. The
2647 powers and duties of such members are as defined in the Bylaws,
2648 Rules, and Policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

RULE IX Nominations and Elections
2649 Section 9.10. Counting of Ballots.
2652 Except in the election of a President, if a tie vote occurs in filling an
2653 office when only one person is to be elected, or occurs in filling a
2654 slate of officers when the slate cannot be completed without
2655 resolving the tie, then as soon as possible before the final
2656 adjournment of the General Assembly involved, additional ballots
2657 shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that
2658 initially the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall
2659 contain only the names of the candidates who are tied. These
2660 ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast
2661 for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the
2662 foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is
2663 still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to
2664 resolve it.

Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.
2665 If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to
2666 resolve the tie shall be presided over by the Secretary of the
2667 Association who in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie
2668 shall have the rights and duties of the Moderator.

Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President.
2670 If, in the election of a President, in any particular counting of the
2672 preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote
2673 among candidates having the least number of votes, then each
2674 such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting,
2675 the ballots accumulated for said candidate shall be redistributed
2676 among the remaining candidates on the basis of the highest
2677 effective preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast.
2678 However, if in this process, such elimination leaves only a single
2679 candidate who in that counting still does not have a majority of the
2680 counted votes, or if only two candidates remain in the contest and
2681 they are tied, then there shall be as many run-off election
2682 procedures, conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.10.1 as are
2683 necessary to result in the election of a President by at least a
2684 majority of the votes cast.

2687 Unless no ballot is required according to Section 9.9(a), prior to
2688 each regular General Assembly at which an election is to be held,
2689 the Secretary shall prepare ballots upon which shall appear the
2690 names of all persons who have been nominated for office in
2691 accordance with these Bylaws. One such ballot shall be sent with
2692 each credential card issued by the Secretary.

2694 On all ballots used in elections held by the Association the order of
2695 names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the
2696 Secretary and witnessed by two other persons. The Secretary shall
In any election, the use of stickers or the writing in of the name of any person on a ballot shall not be permitted and no vote so attempted shall be counted.

An absentee ballot shall be counted only if accompanied by the signed and certified ballot stub of the credential card of the person casting the ballot.

A person shall be qualified to cast a ballot at General Assembly only if that person presents to the Secretary of the Association or those employed by him or her at the polls a properly certified ballot stub plus a badge issued to that person and containing the same name as the one on the ballot stub.

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.

Rule G-9.12.7. Length of Campaigns for President and Moderator.
Campaigns for President and Moderator may begin with small campaign committee organizational meetings and mass mailing lists no earlier than November 1 of the second year preceding the election.

All candidates for at-large elective positions shall keep detailed and accurate records of:
1. their campaign expenses (stated in United States dollars) by categories of travel, postage, telephone, printing and other such categories as seem appropriate;
2. the number of contributors to their campaigns, including the number of contributors in each of the following categories:
   (1) under $50.00,
   (2) $50.00 to $100.00,
   (3) $101.00 to $250.00,
   (4) $251.00 to $500.00, and
   (5) over $500.00, and
3. the number of contributions and the total amount of contributions received from each group or organization supporting the campaign.

(a) When running for office, candidates shall be prohibited from engaging in any electioneering or campaigning during the conduct of official business of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
(b) Financial accounting and bookkeeping procedures shall be established which make it explicit that no monies of the Association were used in the financing of a candidate's campaign or electioneering activities.

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

The duties of the Election Campaign Practices Committee shall be:
1. to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules to candidates for at-large elective positions not later than thirty days after nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of petition;
2. to receive and consider written complaints of alleged violations of such guidelines or rules; if the committee finds probable cause to establish that a violation exists, to notify a candidate or a number of candidates how they may voluntarily comply with guidelines or rules and how long they have to do so; to attempt to mediate disputes arising from such complaints; and, if no satisfactory resolution of a complaint is achieved, to adjudicate the dispute and report the adjudication in writing to the candidates affected;
3. to hold such hearings as may, at the Committee's discretion, be necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of subsection 2 above; and
2819 (4) to report on its activities and any recommendations it may have to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following the elections.

2820 (c) If compliance to an adjudicated decision is not implemented by the stated deadline, the Committee is authorized to block or remove Association-subsidized privileges from the candidate’s campaign.

2822 Candidates adjudicated to be in serious violation of Rule G-9.12.6(c) may have their names removed from the ballot. Any such action pursuant to rule G-9.12.10(c) shall be reported to the Board and the General Assembly. Such adjudication by the ECPC would be subject to automatic review by the Board Executive Committee according to the provisions of Rule G-9.12.10(d).

2824 (d) Any candidate aggrieved by the Committee’s adjudication may, within ten days of the mailing of the adjudication, appeal in writing to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine such an appeal. The Executive Committee shall report its decision on the appeal in writing to the affected candidates as expeditiously as feasible. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees is authorized to issue any order or ruling it deems appropriate in connection with such a decision.

2826 (e) Any member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees who is a candidate for UUA elective office shall not participate in any manner in the determination of any appeal from an adjudication of the Election Campaign Practices Committee.

2827 RULE X Finance and Contracts

2846 Section 10.1. Annual Budget.

2847 Rule G-10.1.1 Presentation of Association Budget. At each regular General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall present budgets for both the Current Fiscal Year and the Succeeding Fiscal Year. Current Fiscal Year means the fiscal year of the Association which has just begun or which is about to begin at the time when the Assembly is held. Succeeding Fiscal Year means the year following the Current Fiscal Year.

2852 Rule G-10.1.2. Expense Categories. Expense estimates in budgets presented by the Board shall be broken down by major categories or functions in such manner as the Board shall determine.

2858 (b) The Current Fiscal Year budget shall contain a separate expense category provision for contingencies, the amount of which shall be a minimum of 3% of the total of all unrestricted expense categories, exclusive of the provision for contingencies.

2864 Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income. Income amounts in the budget for the Current Fiscal Year shall represent the Board’s best estimates of income from all sources. Income from the Annual Fund as so estimated shall be an amount which is not more than 7% greater than the actual Annual Fund income of the fiscal year preceding the Current Fiscal Year.

2860 In the budget for the Succeeding Fiscal Year income from the Annual Fund shall be estimated at an amount which represents the Board’s best estimate of the achievable results for such year.

2873 Rule G-10.1.4. Procedures for Budget Consideration. Any action by a General Assembly with respect to budgets shall be taken under the following procedure:

2876 (a) A budget hearing shall be held as part of the General Assembly program at a time when the Assembly is not in formal business session.

2879 (b) Main motions concerning budgets which are to be made in a formal business session shall be filed in writing with a person or persons designated by the Moderator as early as possible prior to or during the General Assembly but in any event on or before the day prior to the Business Session at which the proposed motion will be in order for adoption. The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers practical to advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of the motions so filed.

2889 (c) Any action with respect to the budget for the Current Fiscal Year calling for increased spending in any category shall provide for equivalent reductions in other categories of spending and specify the categories in which such reductions are to be made.

2894 (d) No action may be taken with respect to the Current Fiscal Year budget which shall be inconsistent with either Rule G-10.1.2(b) or G-10.1.3.

2897 Rule G-10.1.5. Board of Trustees Report. At each General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall make an accounting of its actions taken since the preceding General Assembly and report the results of any budget votes of the preceding General Assembly.

2902 Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.

2903 Rule 10.8.1. Contracts and Securities. The Executive Vice President may sign and attest deeds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents to which the Association is a party.

2907 RULE XI Ministry

2908 Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.


2910 The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee are printed separately and are available on request.

2912 Section 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.


2914 The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review are available on request.

2916 RULE XII Religious Education Credentialing

2917 RULE XIII Regional Organizations

2918 Section C-13.2. Establishment.


2920 (a) The districts shall be nineteen in number and named Ballou, Channing, Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England, Ohio Meadows, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southeast, and Southwestern.

2927 (b) Each district shall be composed of the congregations assigned to that district by the Board of Trustees.

2929 (c) The boundaries of each district encompass the areas served by its member congregations.

2931 (d) The District Map published in the Annual Directory contains boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary lines determined pursuant to subparagraph (c) above and are
intended primarily as a guide for the newly admitted congregation in determining its membership.

RULE XIV Rules

2941 Section 14.4. Miscellaneous Rules.


2943 When the last day for the performance of any act required under the Bylaws or Rules falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a day which is a legal holiday in the place where the act is to be performed, the act may be performed on the next succeeding business day.

2947 Rule G-14.4.2. Receipt of Documents.

2948 When any ballot, petition, notice, document, or material of any kind whatsoever is required to be filed with, delivered to, or received by the Association or an officer, board, committee, or agent thereof on or before a certain day, the same shall be considered to have been so filed, delivered, or received only if it is postmarked seven days prior to said certain day or actually received at the office of the Association at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, on an earlier day or not later than 5:00 p.m. on said certain day.

RULE XV Amendments

2957 Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendments.

2959 A proposed amendment to the Bylaws submitted by certified member congregations or a district must include:

2964 (a) the Article and Section which it is proposed to amend or repeal;

2965 (b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the proponents rely; and

2965 (c) other Articles (or Sections) or "G" Rules affected by the proposed amendment and proposed text of any necessary conforming amendments and "G" Rules.

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2969 Unitarian Universalist Association was given corporate status in May 1961 under special acts of legislature of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New York. See Chapter 145 of the acts of 1960 of the Massachusetts legislature and Chapter 827 of the Acts of 1960 of the New York legislature. Copies of said Acts are attached to the minutes of the organizing meeting of the Association held in Boston, Massachusetts in May 1961 and also are printed in the 1961-62 Directory of the Association.