

MINI-ASSEMBLIES

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

Business Mini-Assembly I: Proposed Bylaw Amendments (Commission on Appraisal)

Thursday 10:45 – 12:00PM | B110-112

Mini-Assembly on Proposed Statement of Conscience: Reproductive Justice

Thursday 1:15 – 4:15PM | B110-112

Business Mini-Assembly II: Proposed Bylaw Amendments (Financial Secretary & Campaign Finance)

Thursday 4:45 – 6:00PM | B110-112

Business Mini-Assembly III Proposed Bylaw Amendments (Regions)

Friday 4:45 – 6:00PM | B110-112

Mini-Assemblies on Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness

Saturday 1:15 – 2:30PM | D133-134, D137-138, D139-140

BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in room B110-112 of the Convention Center on Thursday at 10:45AM, Thursday at 4:45PM and Friday at 4:45PM. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Discussion on the proposed Statement of Conscience takes place at the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 1:15PM in B110-112 of the Oregon Convention Center. Amendments may be introduced only as proposed at the Mini-Assembly. The vote to adopt is scheduled in a General Session.

2014 CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE: ESCALATING INEQUALITY

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

ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#206) by 5:00PM on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the Volunteer Office (C120 in the Convention Center) by 5:00PM on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken at the Saturday morning General Session. Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held on Saturday at 1:15PM in rooms D133-134, D137-138 and D139-140 of the Convention Center.

BUDGET HEARING

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2015 - 2016 budget Friday at 1:15PM in B110-112 of the Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the Volunteer Office (C120 in the Convention Center) by 5:00PM 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 General Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Procedural questions are limited to:

- Parliamentary inquiry
- Points of order and information

- Question of privilege
- Motions to extend or limit time of debate, change the order of business, recess, or adjourn.

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 or in the off-site queue to speak on the motion as presented, this time may be shortened. The Moderator alternates recognizing speakers at pro and con microphones.

After 15 minutes of debate, amendments may be presented. Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. **Only one amendment may be presented at a time.** (You may not amend an amendment.) An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each amendment may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a non-business resolution into a Business Resolution; for example, you can’t add language to an Action of Immediate Witness that requires specific action from congregations or the UUA Board or staff. Before an amendment may be presented to the Assembly, it must be presented in writing at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike (see also “Mini-Assembly” below).

Some motions must be filed prior to the opening of a session, particularly ones concerning the budget. See Rules of Procedure in the Final Agenda for deadlines and place for filing them.

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

Voting

Delegates & Trustees vote by:

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

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

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each General Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace if lost, and you may not vote without your card. As a delegate or member of the Board of Trustees, you may not give your voting card to anyone else to use.

Mini-Assembly

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to matters on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It's also an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments. In years when the selection of a Congregational Study/Action Issue is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates on ways to garner support for their issue. In years when a vote to adopt a Statement of Conscience is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save time in General Session and permit freer debate than General Sessions do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a Business Resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during General Session debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the bylaw and rule changes listed on the final agenda. All Mini-Assemblies are listed in the program. After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in a General Session, the Board of Trustees may incorporate proposed amendments into a Business Resolution or a Bylaw, and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into a Statement of Conscience or an Action of Immediate Witness. For statements

of Conscience, the Commission on Social Witness is required to report all amendments to the Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness may prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in General Session. If you wish to modify the Statement of Conscience, plan to attend the entire Mini-Assembly and work collaboratively with other delegates to suggest amendments.

Budget Hearing

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

Statements of Conscience

Based on feedback from the Mini-Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness may recommend that the Assembly (which includes both the delegates & Trustees) change the length of time the statement is debated before amendments are in order. Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

Actions of Immediate Witness

Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that the Assembly may wish to address immediately. The process for admitting Actions of Immediate Witness to the agenda means that congregations commonly have no opportunity to consider and discuss them in advance of General Assembly. So, Actions of Immediate Witness should address only issues that could not be considered by the Congregational Study/Action Issue process. Consult Article IV, Section 4.16 (c) (1) of the UUA Bylaws for the criteria for an Action of Immediate Witness. Up to three Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the Agenda.

How can a delegate place an Action of Immediate Witness on the Agenda?

Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) booth in the Exhibit Hall. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by 5:00pm on Thursday. Then, begin collection of signatures from other delegates. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures at the Volunteer Office by 5:00 pm on Friday.

See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

What happens then? The Commission will review the AIWs to determine if they meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission will select no more than six from among those submitted that meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission on Social Witness screens proposed Actions of Immediate Witness according to the criteria of grounding, fit and opportunity, as well as significance, timeliness and specificity (see bylaw section 4.16). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process.

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

To Get Your Questions Answered

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

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

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

Point of procedure. You use this for questioning parliamentary procedure. A delegate or member of the Board of Trustees may interrupt debate by going to the procedural microphone and saying "Point of

Procedure" and wait to be recognized. A sample point is "Is this not an amendment to an amendment?" or "Was a vote taken?"

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

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

Committee of the Whole

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

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

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate or Trustee moves that the Committee of the Whole "rise and report" specifying the agreed upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the General Session of the General Assembly is again in session. The motion formulated in the Committee is reported and vote is taken immediately, without debate or possibility of amendment.

General Session I

Wednesday 8:00PM

- Call to Order
- Banner Parade
- Review and Adopt Rules
- Introduction: Chaplains
- Introduction: Right Relations Team
- Introduction: Youth Caucus and Young Adults@GA
- Introduction: GA Accessibility
- Recess

General Session II

Thursday 8:15AM

- Call to Order
- Right Relations Team Report
- General Assembly Planning Committee
- Commission on Social Witness Report
- Presidential Search Committee Report
- President's Report
- Singing
- Moderator's Report
- Board of Trustees' Report
- Introduction: New Congregations
- Introduction: Covenanting Communities
- Budget Report
- GA Talk - YA@GA
- GA Talk - Mosaic Makers
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session III

Friday 8:45AM

- Call to Order
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- Right Relations Report
- Debate and Vote on Statement of Conscience
- Singing
- Collaborative Campaign Report
- UU Service Committee Report
- UU College of Justice Report
- GA Talk - Commit2Respond
- Introduction: UU International Programs
- GA Talk - YA@GA
- Beacon Press Report
- GA Talk - Transforming Governance
- Commission on Appraisal Report
- Financial Advisor's Report
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session IV
Saturday 8:15AM

- Call to Order
- Right Relations Report
- Debate and vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- GA Talk - Community Ministry
- Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee Report
- Debate and vote on proposed bylaw amendments to change the Commission on Appraisal from an elected committee to a board appointed committee
- Special Collection to Support Scholarship Fund for future GA Delegates
- Singing
- Presentation: Distinguished Service Award
- GA Talk - Lessons from Selma 2015
- Annual Program Fund Report
- Presentation: Legacy Society
- GA Talk - YA@GA
- Debate and vote on proposed bylaw amendments to change the finance leadership roles on the Board of Trustees
- Debate and vote on Presidential election campaign financing rules
- Motion to admit Actions of Immediate Witness to Final Agenda
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session V
Sunday 11:00AM

- Call to Order
- Right Relations Report
- Presentation: Presidential Award for Volunteer Service
- Presentation: Angus McLean Award
- Debate & Vote on bylaws that are neutral on governance structures of districts and regions
- Announcements
- Recess

General Session VI
Sunday 1:30PM

- Call to Order
- Declare Election Results
- Debate and vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- UU Women's Federation Report
- Singing
- Responsive Resolutions (if any)
- GA Talk - AIM
- GA Talk - Faithify
- GA Talk - YA@GA
- Transforming Governance - What's Next
- Right Relations Team Final Report
- Final Credentials Report
- Recognition of all who made GA Portland possible
- Adjournment

RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING

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

RULE 3. MINUTES

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

RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

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

RULE 5. AMENDMENTS

Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion and motions to refer, table or to call the question will not be in order until there has been at least fifteen minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved.

Amendments to a business resolution, a bylaw, a rule, an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), or a proposed amendment must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered in the general session. No amendment or other change to any motion under consideration will be entertained unless it is submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the Moderator, who may, however, waive this requirement.

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

RULE 6. TIME LIMITS

The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

- a) No person may speak on any motion for more than two minutes, and not more than once, so long as there are others who have not spoken who desire the floor, except that persons having special information may, with the permission of the Moderator, reply to questions.
- b) Thirty minutes is allowed for discussion of any proposed bylaw or rule amendment, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between proponents and opponents through equitable recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con and off-site delegates.
- c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones or in the off-site queue and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question is in order after the earlier of (a) 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment and (b) the absence of potential speakers at the pro and con microphones and in the off-site queue.

RULE 7. MICROPHONES

- a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated "Pro" or "Con" and off-site "Pro" and "Con" queues is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.
- b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone or off-site queue designated "Amendment" is limited to presenters of motions and members of the Board of Trustees who may use the microphone only for:

- 1) making an amendment to a main motion or another amendment, provided the motion is otherwise in order;
 - 2) using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and
 - 3) stating the Board of Trustees' position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board takes a position.
- c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone or offsite procedure queue.

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

The author of a Responsive Resolutions must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of his/her Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00PM on Saturday for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in general sessions 1 through 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 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 2015-2016 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing in the Volunteer Office not later than 5:00PM Saturday. All such motions must 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(c), which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions; and

RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ ACTION ISSUES

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

After debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written or electronic ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates and Trustees for which one of the Congregational Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Congregational Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two Issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.

RULE 12. UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

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

A motion to amend a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not in order in the General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly as described in Rule 4.12.4. Up to twelve minutes will be allowed for the debate on an amendment. The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone in General Session.

RULE 13. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

- a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth in the Exhibit Hall must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00PM Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.
- c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(3) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the Volunteer Office by no later than 5:00PM Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness will provide a summary of up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria during Saturday morning's General Session.
- e) Each sponsor of a proposed Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.
- f) Delegates and Trustees will vote by ballot for up to three AIWs that they would like to see added to the final agenda.
- g) After the tellers count the ballots, the CSW chair will make a motion to add to the agenda each of the three proposed AIWs with the most votes.

Those that receive a two-thirds vote are admitted to the Final Agenda for a vote at a subsequent General Session.

- h) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- i) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(5). The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone.
- j) Up to twenty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. No amendment shall be in order unless there have been at least twelve minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness.
- k) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during General Session on Sunday. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(6). Proposed AIWs are not in competition with one another as are proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. Each of the proposed AIWs admitted to the Final Agenda may be adopted or rejected by the delegates & Trustees.

RULE 14. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

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

RULE 15. PRECEDENCE OF THE BYLAWS AND RULES

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

RULE 16. ADJOURNMENT

The final business session of the 2015 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 4:45PM on Sunday, June 28.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Discussion on the proposed Statement of Conscience takes place at the Mini-Assembly on Thursday from 1:15 – 4:15PM in B110-112 of the Oregon Convention Center. Amendments may be introduced only as proposed at the Mini-Assembly.

1 As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the reproductive justice framework, which espouses the human
 2 right to have children, not to have children, to parent the children one has in healthy environments and
 3 the human rights to bodily autonomy and to express one’s sexuality freely. Reproductive Justice is the
 4 term created by black women in 1994 to bridge the gap between reproductive rights and other social
 5 justice movements. Those women became SisterSong and have explained that the reproductive justice
 6 framework “represents a shift for women advocating for control of their bodies -- from a narrower focus
 7 on legal access and individual choice... to a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural
 8 constraints on [their] power. Reproductive justice addresses the social reality of inequality, specifically,
 9 the inequality of opportunities that [women of color] have to control [their] reproductive destiny.”¹ To the
 10 Reproductive Justice framework, we as Unitarian Universalists add that all people have the right to self-
 11 expression with regards to gender and sexuality and the right to live free from sexual violence, intimate
 12 partner violence, and exploitation including sexual and reproductive exploitation.

13 The world we envision includes social, political, legal, and economic systems that support everyone’s
 14 freedom of reproductive choice and expression of gender identity and sexuality. In such a world all
 15 communities are places of equality, abundance and safety, free from violence, oppression, and hazardous
 16 environments. This world includes access to affordable, culturally and developmentally appropriate, and
 17 safe child care and health care. In our vision everyone has access to accurate, safe, healthy, and culturally-
 18 appropriate reproductive health services and information about sexuality and family planning.

19 History

20 Our faith tradition has a long history of progressive witness for freedom and justice. Soon after the
 21 merger of Universalism and Unitarianism, the new Association (1961) adopted statements in support
 22 of civil rights and the rights of women. In time, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
 23 added advocacy for those facing oppression based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and
 24 expression. We have offered sexuality education across the lifespan within our congregations, and have
 25 advocated for these beliefs in the public sphere.

26 The reproductive justice movement emerged because neither the predominantly white middle class
 27 women’s rights and reproductive rights movements nor the predominately male civil rights movement
 28 addressed the unique range of issues that women of color faced. Those issues have included forced
 29 sterilization, forced contraception, and higher rates of removal of children due to accusations of abuse
 30 or neglect. These issues, coupled with systemic racism, have frequently made parenting or co-parenting
 31 more difficult due to many factors including but not limited to unequal implementation of laws, unequal
 32 incarceration rates, prohibitions imposed on ex-felons, and economic insecurity.

33 The reproductive justice movement envisions the liberation of people of all genders, sexual orientations,
 34 ability levels, gender identities, classes, and cultural and racial identities. Such liberation requires living
 35 wages, safe and supported housing, high quality and comprehensive medical and reproductive health
 36 care, affordable legal representation, paid parental leave, affordable childcare, and control of personal
 37 reproductive decisions as well as accurate information about sexuality and reproduction, and absence of
 38 individual and institutional violence.

1 From “Why is Reproductive Justice Important for Women of Color?” on the SisterSong website.

39 As participants in the Reproductive Justice movement, Unitarian Universalists commit to take the
 40 lead from, act in solidarity with, and be accountable to communities of color and other marginalized
 41 groups, using our positions of power in support of those communities' priorities. Both those affected
 42 and their allies have important roles to play. Unitarian Universalists are laying the groundwork for the
 43 transformative power of multicultural organizing in partnership with reproductive justice organizations
 44 and leaders, looking to those most affected for leadership. We will use our position to speak loudly in the
 45 religious arena, as the religious voice has often been used to limit access to reproductive justice.

46 THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING

47 As Unitarian Universalists we covenant to uphold our seven principles. The first, second and sixth
 48 principles are the most applicable to Reproductive Justice. We are all sexual beings with varying abilities,
 49 preferences, and identities. Unitarian Universalism calls us to advocate for the positive expression
 50 of sexuality, including choices about reproduction and nurturing, and for a culture of respect and
 51 empowerment. Our commitment to our principles calls us to support and partner with historically
 52 oppressed communities as we work together to build the world we dream about. In order to embody our
 53 principles, we as Unitarian Universalists must listen to and follow the lead of women from the affected
 54 communities and reach outside our cultural assumptions.

55 Unitarian Universalists support gender equity, positive sexuality, diverse sexual expression and the
 56 individual's right to make reproductive choices. Such choices are influenced by social and political
 57 systems as well as by factors such as racial/cultural identity, economic status, immigration/citizenship
 58 status, relationship with the criminal justice system, health status, and ability. Our religious tradition
 59 directs us to respect the diversity of faith traditions that surround us and insists that no singular religious
 60 viewpoint or creed guide the policies of our government.

61 Our pluralistic congregations include diverse beliefs, backgrounds, and personal stories. We do not agree
 62 on many issues, including when life begins and the rights of the unborn. Yet we unite in striving to live
 63 out the values and principles that call us to work for reproductive justice in spite of the complexities of
 64 the issues.

65 ACTIONS

66 We commit to putting our values into action, striving for equality and justice and honoring the rights,
 67 needs and choices of others. Affirming the interconnected web of life with justice for all people, we
 68 commit to undertake actions that could include the following.

69 As individuals we can

- 70 • Study reproductive justice issues, including sexuality, gender identity, classism, ability level, and
 71 racism.
- 72 • Acknowledge personal biases and stories.
- 73 • Work to accept one's own body, sexuality, and abilities.
- 74 • Adopt spiritual practices that contribute to self-care.
- 75 • Advocate for reproductive justice and related issues through op-ed pieces, letters to the editor,
 76 letters and visits to legislators, and direct action.
- 77 • Volunteer with and/or provide financial support to organizations that provide reproductive health
 78 services at little or no cost, abortion clinics, women's shelters, and child and family community
 79 support centers.
- 80 • Protest violations of basic human rights.
- 81 • Support reproductive health/abortion clinics that are experiencing demonstrations.
- 82 • Effect positive change within our own social circles and professions.
- 83 • Join reproductive justice groups as a member or an ally member.
- 84 • Consider candidates' positions on these issues when voting.
- 85 • Work to eliminate barriers to services (economic, educational, language, accessibility, etc.).
- 86 • Provide leadership in our congregation and community on these issues.

- 87 • Financially contribute to organizations that advocate for reproductive justice issues, including the
88 social determinants underlying racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, and other oppressions.
89 • Work to eliminate legal restrictions on adoption and foster care for LGBTIQ families.
- 90 In our relationships we can
91 • Respect all people and their decisions regarding reproduction even those with whom we disagree.
92 • Minister to one another around reproductive health and reproductive justice issues.
93 • Be sensitive to others' stories, respecting their life experiences and lived realities.
94 • Accept people of all abilities, identities, orientations, and generations as sexual beings.
95 • Accompany anyone wanting support (i.e. while seeking government assistance, in making decisions
96 for their families about pregnancy, during abortions, and during childbirth).
97 • Teach children and youth about and model healthy sexuality and relationships.
98 • Seek and accept leadership from people most affected by reproductive injustice.
- 99 In our congregations we can
100 • Form a reproductive justice group, task force, or committee.
101 • Invite reproductive justice groups to share their understanding and expertise, and/or conduct
102 reproductive justice trainings.
103 • Connect religious professionals and lay leaders with organizations and networks that promote
104 reproductive and economic justice and human rights.
105 • Expect religious professionals and lay leaders to participate in reproductive justice-related
106 education and training.
107 • Provide ministry and pastoral care that is inclusive of all people and reproductive justice issues.
108 • Offer worship, discussion, and small group ministry on reproductive justice issues.
109 • Develop and promote congregational statements on reproductive justice.
110 • Provide spaces, programs, and teaching for community groups working on reproductive justice
111 issues.
112 • Provide education to children, youth and adults that is age, ability, and identity appropriate.
113 • Join with state legislative ministry organizations and interfaith networks in their advocacy for
114 reproductive rights or organize such advocacy.
115 • Communicate reproductive justice information using the congregation's virtual community
116 networks, newsletters, and orders of service.
117 • Implement Safe Congregations guidelines and practices.
118 • Continue Welcoming Congregation advocacy and education efforts related to gender and sexuality.
119 • Reach out and participate in interfaith and secular work on racism, classism, gender and/or sexual
120 health issues.
121 • Welcome breastfeeding in our shared spaces.
- 122 As an Association we can
123 • Publicly witness for reproductive justice.
124 • Advocate for just legislation and policies and the rights of families and individuals at the state and
125 federal levels.
126 • Advocate for the right to access comprehensive reproductive health information and services.
127 • Support state legislative ministry organizations in their work that supports reproductive justice.
128 • Provide curricula, resources, current information, and networking opportunities that congregations
129 can use in their reproductive justice education and advocacy efforts.
130 • Collaborate with other faith-based and secular organizations working for reproductive justice and
131 related issues.
132 • Present reproductive justice workshops at district/regional meetings.
- 133 With open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts, we work toward reproductive justice, and commit to
134 replacing insecurity with safety, fear with acceptance, judgment with love, and shame with compassion.

Proposed changes to make the Commission on Appraisal a committee of the Board of Trustees

These recommended bylaw changes will transform the Commission on Appraisal from a committee of the Association to a committee of the Board of Trustees. As a Board committee, the Commission will have responsibility for conducting linkage with sources of authority and accountability within Unitarian Universalism, as well as assessing areas in need of study, with a direct connection to the work of the Board. The Commission will collaborate with the Board in choosing focuses for linkage. The Board envisions that this change will help empower the Commission’s work by giving it a functional place in our governance structure. The changes reduce the size of the Commission from nine to four members. The Commission on Appraisal voted to support these proposed bylaw amendments.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 10:45AM in room B110-112 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

135 **4.11 Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies**

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

- 138 (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- 139 (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XV, Section
140 15.2;
- 141 (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;

142 [(d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules submitted by the
143 Commission on Appraisal;]

144 d[(e)] all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2,
145 submitted by:

- 146 (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;
- 147 (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards
148 or their congregations; or
- 149 (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified member congregations with no more
150 than 10 members of any one member congregation counted as part of the 250;

151 e[(f)] proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions submitted by a district by official
152 action at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of three Business
153 Resolutions per district; and

154 f[(g)] Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the Commission on Social Witness
155 pursuant to Section 4.12(a).

156 Resolutions submitted under [(d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f)] (d)(2), (d)(3) and (e) must be received by the Board
157 of Trustees by February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If the General Assembly
158 opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions submitted under [(d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f)]
159 (d)(2), (d)(3) and (e) must be received no later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that
160 General Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines are established by Sections
161 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular
162 General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than June. The Board of Trustees shall include
163 on the Tentative Agenda all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of Business Resolutions
164 in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions
165 and may make such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a
166 standard format. It may also submit one or more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two

167 or more Business Resolutions. Adoption of Business Resolutions by a General Assembly shall be by two-
 168 thirds vote. The Tentative Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member
 169 organization and trustee by March 1 if the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise, not less than 90
 170 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

171 **4.14 Final Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.**

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

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

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

189 **5.1 Committees of the Association**

190 The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- 191 (a) the Nominating Committee;
- 192 (b) the Presidential Search Committee;
- 193 (c) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- 194 [(d) the Commission on Appraisal;]
- 195 d[(e)] the Commission on Social Witness; and
- 196 e[(f)] the Board of Review.

197 The President shall be a member, without vote, of the General Assembly Planning Committee[, the
 198 Commission on Appraisal,] and the Commission on Social Witness.

199 **[5.9 Commission on Appraisal.**

200 The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine members elected to terms of six years. One-third of the
 201 members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. After serving
 202 a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least six years.

203 The Commission on Appraisal shall:

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

209 **7.1 Committees of the Board**

210 The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

- 211 (a) the Executive Committee;
- 212 (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;
- 213 (c) the Finance Committee;
- 214 (d) the Investment Committee;
- 215 (e) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; [and]
- 216 (f) the Audit Committee[.]; and
- 217 (g) the Commission on Appraisal.

218 The President shall be a member, without vote, of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and
 219 the Investment Committee.

220 **7.9 Commission on Appraisal**

221 The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of four members appointed by the Board.

222 The Commission on Appraisal shall:

- 223 (a) conduct linkage with identified sources of authority and accountability on topics of importance to
 224 the Association chosen in consultation with the Board;
- 225 (b) alert the Board to any issues which may be of concern to the Association or which could benefit
 226 from review; and
- 227 (c) report annually to the Board and the General Assembly.

228 **15.2 Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

229 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

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

Proposed Changes to Finance Leadership on the UUA Board of Trustees

The UUA Board of Trustees is committed to moving toward ever better governance practices. One change we have made since becoming a smaller board two years ago is to consider all financial decisions as a whole board, rather than delegating those important decisions to a Finance Committee. These bylaw changes institutionalize our practice of making financial decisions a priority for all trustees. In a larger board, the Finance Committee was an important institution; a smaller board can do this work as a whole. These bylaw amendments create the role of Financial Secretary on the Board, a person elected from among the Board's members who will facilitate financial conversations and decision-making among the trustees, and who will serve on the Executive Committee (as the Chair of the Finance Committee does now). These amendments also remove a trustee representative from the Audit Committee. The Board will continue to be represented on the Audit Committee by the Financial Advisor.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 4:45PM in room B110-112 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

241 **7.1 Committees of the Board**

242 The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

243 (a) the Executive Committee;

244 (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;

245 [(c) the Finance Committee;]

246 c[(d)] the Investment Committee;

247 d[(e)] the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and

248 e[(f)] the Audit Committee.

249 The President shall be a member, without vote, of the Executive Committee[, the Finance Committee,]
250 and the Investment Committee.

251 **7.5 Executive Committee**

252 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the First Vice Moderator, the Secretary, the
253 Financial Advisor, and the Financial Secretary. [Chair of the Finance Committee.] The position on the
254 committee occupied by the First Vice Moderator shall be filled by the Second Vice Moderator at any
255 meeting of the committee from which the First Vice Moderator is absent or at which the First Vice
256 Moderator is presiding in the absence of the Moderator. The position on the committee occupied by
257 the Secretary shall be filled by the Assistant Secretary at any meeting of the committee from which the
258 Secretary is absent. The Executive Committee shall conduct the current and ordinary business of the
259 Association between meetings of the Board of Trustees. If between meetings of the Board of Trustees,
260 matters arise which (1) in the opinion of the Executive Committee are not current and ordinary business
261 but in the best interests of the

262 Association must nevertheless be acted upon, or (2) the Executive Committee has been authorized by
263 the Board to be acted upon, then the Executive Committee may act thereon for the Board of Trustees, but
264 only if four or more members vote the action.

265 **[Section 7.7 Finance Committee**

266 The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees, and the
267 Moderator without vote. The duties of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.]

Section 7.14 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall consist of [five] four members as follows:

- 268 (a) three persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are members of the Board or hold a salaried
- 269 position with the Association;
- 270 (b) and the Financial Advisor.]; and]
- 271 [(c) a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be appointed by the Board.]
- 272 No member of the Audit Committee shall serve for more than four terms on the Audit Committee.
- 273 The duties of the Audit Committee are set forth in Article X.
- 274 **10.2 [Duties of the Finance Committee] Election and Duties of the Financial Secretary**
- 275 The Financial Secretary shall be elected by the Board from among its members. The Financial Secretary
- 276 facilitates the Board's conversations in order to fulfill its financial responsibilities. [The Finance
- 277 Committee shall submit proposed annual budgets for the Association to the Board of Trustees and make
- 278 recommendations to the Board with respect to major financial policies of the Association other than
- 279 those pertaining to investments. It shall review the use made of specific funds held by the Association
- 280 and shall also recommend long-range financial plans.]

Proposed Changes to make the Bylaws neutral regarding the governance structure of districts and regions

The proposed amendments remove the concept of districts or regions from the bylaws as an entity of UUA governance. These changes move the Bylaws to position of neutrality regardless of the decisions that individual Districts or Regions make regarding their path (or not) towards regionalization. The proposed changes are consistent with Policy Governance and are in line with the Board's ongoing initiative to clarify the lines of accountability within our bylaws and governance practice.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Friday at 4:45PM in room B110-112 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

281 **ARTICLE III Membership**

282 **Section 3.4. Church of the Larger Fellowship.**

283 The Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, shall be a member congregation which is not

284 considered to be located in any particular district or region.

285 **ARTICLE IV General Assembly**

286 **Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.**

287 A special General Assembly may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon

288 petition of not less than fifty certified member congregations by action of the governing boards or their

289 congregations. No more than twenty of the fifty congregations may be from the same district or region.

290 **Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.**

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

292 include:

- 293 (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- 294 (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XV, Section
- 295 15.2;
- 296 (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;
- 297 (d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules submitted by the
- 298 Commission on Appraisal;
- 299 (e) all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2,

- 300 submitted by:
- 301 (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;
- 302 (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or
- 303 their congregations; or
- 304 (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified member congregations with no more
- 305 than 10 members of any one member congregation counted as part of the 250; and
- 306 [(f) [proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions submitted by a district by official
- 307 action at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of three Business
- 308 Resolutions per district; and]
- 309 (f) [(g)] Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the Commission on Social Witness
- 310 pursuant to Section 4.12(a).
- 311 Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), and (e)(3) [and (f)] must be received by the Board of Trustees by
- 312 [February] November 1 of the preceding year whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If
- 313 the General Assembly opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions submitted under (d),
- 314 (e)(2), and (e)(3) [and (f)] must be received no later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of
- 315 that General Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines are established by Sections
- 316 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular
- 317 General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than June. The Board of Trustees shall include
- 318 on the Tentative Agenda all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of Business Resolutions
- 319 in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions
- 320 and may make such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a
- 321 standard format. It may also submit one or more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two
- 322 or more Business Resolutions. Adoption of Business Resolutions by a General Assembly shall be by two-
- 323 thirds vote. The Tentative Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member
- 324 organization and trustee by March 1 if the General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 90
- 325 days before the opening of the General Assembly.
- 326 ***Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.**
- 327 The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process is to provide the member congregations of
- 328 the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue.
- 329 The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement
- 330 of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the
- 331 congregations to take effective action. The process for adoption of UUA Statements of Conscience shall
- 332 be as follows:
- 333 (a) First Cycle Year
- 334 (1) Each member congregation[, district,] and sponsored organization (as designated by the
- 335 Board of Trustees), may submit to the Commission on Social Witness by October 1 in the
- 336 year preceding a General Assembly one proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue, such
- 337 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be approved at a duly called meeting of its
- 338 members or its governing board at which a quorum is present. This commences the process of
- 339 a four year UUA Statement of Conscience cycle ("the Cycle"). A Cycle year ends at the close of
- 340 General Assembly.
- 341 (2) The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the Board of
- 342 Trustees for inclusion on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General Assembly not more than
- 343 ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, each of which shall be based in whole or
- 344 in part on the issues submitted to it as described in the previous subsection. The Commission
- 345 on Social Witness shall verify with the proposing congregation[, district,] or sponsored
- 346 organization that the proposed Study/Action Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to

- 347 being included in the poll ballot. The ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall
 348 be included for approval by the congregations on the Congregational Poll ballot, such ballot
 349 to be available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 of the same year.
 350 Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall
 351 be due by February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).
- 352 (3) For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda of the
 353 General Assembly twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in
 354 the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.
- 355 (4) The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be ranked in the order of the votes
 356 received in the Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving the most votes (not to
 357 exceed five in number) shall be submitted to the General Assembly as follows:
- 358 (i) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the
 359 General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action
 360 Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes
 361 among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly;
 362 provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a
 363 majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues
 364 receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.
- 365 (ii) After one Congregational Study/Action Issue has been referred for study in accordance
 366 with (i), above, the UUA staff shall conduct a workshop to discuss processes for study and
 367 action on the selected issue. By November 1 following the General Assembly, the UUA
 368 staff shall have developed a resource guide pertaining to the Congregational Study/Action
 369 Issue selected by the General Assembly. The resource guide shall be made available and
 370 congregations notified of its availability.
- 371 (5) If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in the previous year, the regular meeting
 372 of the General Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the implementation of such UUA
 373 Statement of Conscience.
- 374 (6) If no proposed Congregation Study/Action Issues are on the Final Agenda in the first Cycle
 375 year, or if no Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by the General Assembly,
 376 then following the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the Cycle shall begin again as set
 377 forth in this subsection.
- 378 (b) Second Cycle Year
- 379 (1) Member congregations [and the districts] shall submit by not later than March 1 of the second
 380 Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related
 381 resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
- 382 (2) During the meeting of the General Assembly in the second Cycle year the Commission on
 383 Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.
- 384 (c) Third Cycle Year
- 385 (1) Member congregations [and the districts] shall submit by not later than March 1 of the third
 386 Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related
 387 resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
- 388 (2) During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the Commission on Social Witness
 389 shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the General
 390 Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of
 391 Conscience.
- 392 (3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational
 393 comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final

394 Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll, to be made available and congregations
 395 notified of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of the
 396 availability of these items shall be given to the congregations. Congregational Poll ballots and
 397 the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall
 398 be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).

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

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

405 (d) Fourth Cycle Year

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

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

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

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

426 **Section 4.13. Revision of UUA Statements of Conscience Process Schedule.**

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

431 **Section 4.15. Agenda for Special General Assemblies.**

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

- 434 (a) the Board of Trustees;
- 435 (b) the petition, if any, which calls the special General Assembly; or
- 436 (c) not less than 50 certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their
 437 congregations, with no more than 20 of the 50 congregations from the same district **or region**.

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

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

- 441 (a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters may be admitted to the agenda by
- 442 a regular General Assembly.
- 443 (b) Prior to 2013, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the agenda.
- 444 (c) (1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness is one concerned with a significant action,
- 445 event or development, the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to be
- 446 addressed by a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.
- 447 (2) Beginning with General Assembly 2013, no more than three General Assembly Actions of
- 448 Immediate Witness may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly.
- 449 (3) A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to the agenda must be submitted by a
- 450 delegate and signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations in at least five districts or
- 451 regions. If six petitions or fewer are received, all petitions received that have the requisite level
- 452 of delegate and congregation support are eligible to be considered for possible admission to
- 453 the agenda. In the event more than six petitions are submitted that satisfy the sponsorship
- 454 requirement, the Commission on Social Witness shall select six from among those which
- 455 meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and shall submit those
- 456 six actions to the agenda of the General Assembly for possible admission. The Commission
- 457 on Social Witness shall prepare summaries of no more than six petitions and present those
- 458 summaries to the General Assembly for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate
- 459 support. The three petitions receiving the most votes are eligible for admission to the agenda.
- 460 If there are submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria for a General Assembly
- 461 Action of Immediate Witness, each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the agenda.
- 462 (4) The motion to admit each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness ruled eligible is
- 463 not debatable, but an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy to the General
- 464 Assembly for each eligible action by one of its sponsors prior to any such motion shall be
- 465 provided. Admission of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness shall be by a two-
- 466 thirds vote.
- 467 (5) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each admitted
- 468 action shall be discussed and amendments shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments
- 469 shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness
- 470 shall finalize each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and the chairperson of the
- 471 Commission on Social Witness, in consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly,
- 472 the parliamentarian, and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for
- 473 consideration by the General Assembly.
- 474 (6) Adoption of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness shall be by a two-thirds vote.
- 475 (7) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(c) must be in writing and filed with the
- 476 Chair of the Commission on Social Witness or the Commission's designee by the deadline
- 477 established by the Commission and announced at the opening session of the General
- 478 Assembly.
- 479 (d) Responsive Resolutions may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and acted
- 480 upon.
- 481 (1) A Responsive Resolution is a resolution made in response to a substantive portion of a report
- 482 by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly.
- 483 (2) Adoption of a Responsive Resolution shall be by two thirds vote.

484 **Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.**

- 485 (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular

486 or special election, may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member
 487 congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no
 488 fewer than five different districts or regions. A certified member congregation may authorize the
 489 signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its
 490 members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as
 491 the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier
 492 than the preceding March 1.

493 (b) For other Elective Positions. A nomination for any elective position, for a regular or special
 494 election, may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member
 495 congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted
 496 toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed
 497 for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than
 498 the preceding October 1. A petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees must designate the
 499 position number for which the person is being nominated.

500 **ARTICLE XIII Regional Organizations**

501 **Section C-13.1. Districts and Regions.**

502 The Association shall support areas of regional responsibility known as districts or regions.

503 ***Section C-13.2. Establishment.**

504 The establishment of districts or regions and the manner of determining which congregations are
 505 included in each district or region shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

506 **Section 13.3. Members.**

507 All member congregations of the Association located within the district or region shall be entitled to be
 508 member congregations of that district or or region.

509 **Section C-13.4. Autonomy.**

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

513 **Section 13.5. District or Region Bylaws or Policies.**

514 Each district or region shall adopt bylaws or policies which are not in conflict with these Bylaws.

515 **ARTICLE XV Amendment**

516 **Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.**

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

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

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

529 (2) The text of a proposed amendment which has been approved by one General Assembly, may
 530 be amended at any time prior to final adoption. If the Moderator rules that the amendment

- 531 to the proposal is substantive, final adoption shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly
 532 except that any such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at three
 533 successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to substantive amendment and
 534 shall be submitted to a vote for final approval at the third such regular General Assembly.
- 535 (3) Such a proposal which, on any vote for final adoption, receives a majority but not a two-thirds
 536 vote, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly, at which it may
 537 be finally adopted if it receives the requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-
 538 thirds vote at the third regular General Assembly at which it is considered for final approval,
 539 neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the
 540 agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
- 541 (c) Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II. A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article
 542 II of these Bylaws shall be subject to the following process
- 543 (1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly for the
 544 purpose of determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission appointed by
 545 the Board of Trustees for study. Such a study shall involve member congregations. A majority
 546 vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the study
 547 commission. Once the study of the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more
 548 than two years, the study commission shall submit to the Board of Trustees for 1789 inclusion
 549 on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly any amendments to Article II that the
 550 study commission recommends. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any
 551 amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal.
- 552 (2) A motion to dispense with the study process and give preliminary approval to a proposal to
 553 amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II shall be in order during the General Assembly
 554 at which consideration of a motion to refer the proposal to the study process is authorized.
 555 A motion to dispense with the study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage. Such
 556 a proposal shall then be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final
 557 adoption without amendment. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.
- 558 (3) At the first General Assembly following the completion of the study process, amendments to
 559 the Article II proposal may be considered only as follows:
- 560 (i) During the General Assembly there shall be a mini-assembly held during which
 561 amendments to the Article II proposal recommended by the study commission shall be
 562 considered.
- 563 (ii) A delegate may submit in writing at the mini assembly an amendment to an Article
 564 II proposal. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General
 565 Assembly. The Moderator, in consultation with the chair of the study commission, the
 566 parliamentarian and legal counsel shall prioritize proposed amendments for consideration
 567 by the General Assembly. A majority vote of the General Assembly is required for approval
 568 of any amendment proposed in the mini-assembly.
- 569 (iii) Following the vote on any amendments proposed in the mini-assembly, the General
 570 Assembly shall vote on any amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees. A majority
 571 vote is required to adopt such amendments. Following the vote on all amendments, the
 572 General Assembly shall vote on preliminary approval of the Article II proposal. A majority
 573 vote is required for preliminary approval.
- 574 (iv) If no amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are adopted by the General Assembly
 575 pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(ii) above, the Article II proposal shall be submitted for final
 576 approval to the next regular General Assembly. Final approval requires a two-thirds vote of
 577 the General Assembly. No amendments may be considered.
- 578 (v) If one or more amendments proposed in the mini assembly are adopted by the General

579 Assembly, the Article II proposal shall be referred to the study commission. Within six
 580 months after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission, taking into
 581 account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall prepare the proposal to amend
 582 Article II. The Board of Trustees shall put this proposal on the agenda of the next regular
 583 General Assembly.

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

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

594 (6) If no study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees
 595 shall appoint a commission to study Article II for not more than two years and to recommend
 596 appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of
 597 the next regular General Assembly. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda
 598 any amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal. Notwithstanding
 599 anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II which are
 600 promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this paragraph shall be subject to a
 601 two-step approval process as described in subsections (c)(3) and (c)(4), above.

602 ***Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

603 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

- 604 (a) the Board of Trustees;
- 605 (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- 606 (c) the Commission on Appraisal; or
- 607 (d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their
 608 congregations; such proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the Board of Trustees
 609 on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110
 610 days before the General Assembly. [; or]

611 [(e) a district by official action at a duly called district meeting at which a quorum is present, such
 612 proposed amendment to be received by the Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the
 613 regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next
 614 General Assembly.]

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

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

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

619 The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare (and the Board of Trustees shall include with the
 620 Tentative Agenda) a report summarizing the numbers and topics of the proposed Congregational Study/
 621 Action Issues submitted by the certified member congregations [districts,] and sponsored organizations
 622 as defined in Section 4.12(a)(1), and the criteria which it used in selecting proposed Congregational
 623 Study/Action Issues included in the Congregational Poll. Each proposed Congregational Study/Action
 624 Issue that appears on the Tentative Agenda shall be accompanied by previous General Resolutions,

625 actions and statements on related issues, with dates (if applicable), and the names or number of
 626 congregations submitting issues included within such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue.

627 **Rule G-4.12.3 Report on Implementation of UUA Statements of Conscience.**

628 The UUA Administration shall report at each regular General Assembly regarding implementation of
 629 UUA Statements of Conscience with particular reference to the most recently adopted Statement of
 630 Conscience. Such report shall summarize implementation by member congregations, [Districts,] UUA staff
 631 and other Unitarian Universalist groups.

632 **Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.**

633 **Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations [and Districts].**

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

638 **RULE XIII Regional Organizations**

639 **Section C-13.2. Establishment.**

640 **Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts or Regions.**

641 [(a) There shall be districts named Ballou Channing, , Clara Barton, Florida, Joseph Priestley,
 642 Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, MidAmerica, Mountain Desert, Mid- South, Northern
 643 New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, St. Lawrence,
 644 Southeast, and Southwestern.]

645 [(a)][(b)] Each district or region shall be composed of the congregations assigned to that district or region
 646 by the Board of Trustees.

647 [(b)][(c)] The boundaries of each district or region encompass the areas served by its member
 648 congregations.

649 [(c)][(d)] Upon application to the Board of Trustees and after notice and an opportunity to be heard is
 650 afforded the affected districts or regions, a congregation may change its district or regional
 651 membership with approval of the Board of Trustees.

652 [(d)][(e)] The [District] Map of Districts and Regions published on the UUA Website [published in the
 653 Annual Directory] contains boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary lines
 654 determined pursuant to subparagraph (c) above and are intended primarily as a guide for the
 655 newly admitted congregation in determining its membership.

656 [(e)][(f)] Transition Provision. The amendments to Rule G-13.2.1 deleting the Central Midwest, Heartland,
 657 and Prairie Star Districts shall not become effective until those Districts dissolve. This transition
 658 provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the first regular General
 659 Assembly occurring after all of those districts have dissolved.

660 **Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendments.**

661 **Rule G-15.2.1. Form of Submission.**

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

- 664 (a) the Article and Section which it is proposed to amend or repeal;
- 665 (b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the proponents rely; and
- 666 (c) other Articles (or Sections) or "G" Rules affected by the proposed amendment and proposed text
 667 of any necessary conforming amendments and "G" Rules.

Proposed limitations to UUA Presidential election campaign finances.

These changes follow the recommendations of the Presidential Search Committee for establishing campaign finance limits for Presidential elections. These limitations make the election financially accessible to persons with different personal, economic, social, and political resources, while still asking the candidate to demonstrate fund raising capacity. Other changes eliminate one unnecessary sentence and expand the categories of reportable donations.

The Mini-Assembly for this item is on Thursday at 4:45PM in room B110-112 of the Convention Center

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

668 **Rule G-9.13.8 Campaign Finances Disclosures and Limitations.**

669 Candidates for UUA President are limited to spending no more than \$100,000 on their campaign for
 670 election. No single donor, including the candidate themselves and any organization or group, may
 671 contribute more than \$5,000 in total, to a presidential campaign. In-kind donations of greater than \$500
 672 equivalent cash value are reportable, but do not count against these totals.

673 All candidates for at-large elective positions shall keep detailed and accurate records of:

- 674 (a) their campaign expenses (stated in United States dollars) by categories of travel, postage,
 675 telephone, printing and other such categories as seem appropriate; and
- 676 (b) the number of contributors to their campaigns, including the number of contributors in each of
 677 the following categories:
 - 678 (1) under \$50.00,
 - 679 (2) \$50.00 to [~~\$100.00~~] \$250.00,
 - 680 (3) [~~\$101.00~~] \$251.00 to [~~\$250.00~~] \$1,000.00,
 - 681 [(4) \$251.00-\$500.00, and]
 - 682 (4) Over [~~\$500.00~~] \$1,000.00, and
 - 683 (5) In-kind donations with an equivalent cash value of \$500 or more.
- 684 [(c) the number of contributions and the total amount of contributions received from each group or
 685 organization supporting the campaign.]

686 No candidate for any elective position shall solicit or knowingly accept any contribution that is given
 687 through a tax-exempt entity with the purpose of conferring tax-exempt status to the contribution to
 688 which it would not otherwise be entitled. Such exempt entities include but are not limited to member
 689 congregations, associate member organizations and independent UUA affiliates.

690 The names of contributors shall be disclosed. Each such report shall identify by name any member
 691 congregation, associate member organization or independent affiliate of the Association and any other
 692 tax exempt organization (including specifically, but without limitation to, any minister’s discretionary
 693 fund or similar account) that has made any contribution to the campaign and shall state the amount of
 694 each such contribution. Such reports shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association. A preliminary
 695 report shall be due at the close of the first day of the regular General Assembly at which the election
 696 occurs. A final report shall be due 60 days thereafter. The Secretary shall upon written request from a
 697 member of a member congregation furnish such information from these reports as requested. These
 698 reports shall be made available for inspection by any member of a member congregation at the principal
 699 offices of the Association and shall be brought by the Secretary to the next General Assembly and made
 700 available for inspection there by any delegate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

One of the four candidates for the UUA board put forth by the Nominating Committee has withdrawn her name from consideration. The Board will appointing a replacement who will serve until General Assembly in 2016.

Gregory Boyd

Currently a Field Representative with the US Census Bureau, Greg previously assisted at the Pennsylvania State University in the Teacher Education program. He has also served our congregations, camps, and conferences as a religious educator. Greg holds degrees in Bilingual Education (B.S., Boston University), Teaching and Curriculum (M.Ed, Penn State), and Culinary Arts (Certificate, Indiana University of Pennsylvania). While he has served in various leadership positions in our Association over the past 15 years, he is currently completing a term on the General Assembly Planning Committee. He looks forward to the opportunities for greater listening and deepening reflection service on our Board of Trustees will bring.

Tim Atkins

It is an honor to be nominated for the UUA Board of Trustees. I currently serve as the Lifespan Director of Religious Education for the Morristown (NJ) Unitarian Fellowship, and serve as Secretary of the UUA Appointments Committee. I am active with online ministry, having served as the Director of Social Media for the CLF and as the founder of Loved For Who You Are. And I'm a proud Millennial! I am committed to growing our faith, both in terms of congregational growth and in spiritual depth. I look forward to bringing my voice as a UU Young Adult Religious Educator to the UUA Board.

The Rev. Patrick McLaughlin

I look forward to serving our association. I was raised in this faith, served as a lay leader in California, and now serve as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, NH. I have a deep concern for how we connect across all ages, and served as a youth camp chaplain for several years. I have a deep commitment to the work we need to do, as congregations and a faith, to be meaningfully anti-racist, anti-classist, and anti-oppressive. I am eager to help to care for our tradition and to deepen and grow it, as a faith, as institutions, and for the good of the world.

Please note: Election of the candidates for the Commission on Appraisal (COA) will become effective only if the proposed Bylaws changes to transform the COA from an elected commission to a board committee do not pass.

Kathleen Henry

In the most important ways, I have always been a UU—even though my original faith tradition is Roman Catholic and I am relatively new to UU membership. My question is typically “Why not?”—an approach the UUA embraces for which I am profoundly grateful. My thinking about social issues has been shaped by my work with LGBT youth around suicide prevention. My theological thinking is influenced and expressed through my decades-long creative work with innovative and inclusive liturgical expression—especially through dance. It would be a privilege to serve.

Peter Kandis

For thirty years Unitarian Universalism has been central to my identity and life's work. I have been board president of two congregations, dean of the Southern Region Leadership School for five years, on the Southeast District Board for six years and am now its vice president. I was a senior facilitator for our Gathered Here initiative, was present when the Orlando Platform was conceived, and am on the Southern Region's Elder Ministry.

When I found out I was being nominated for the CoA I read their past year's meeting minutes, purchased and read the three books on their reading list. I want this assignment and ask for your vote.

Brian Chenowith

Our faith calls us to a holy and enduring work. This work is so dear and essential to who I am that it is humbling and honoring to be a candidate for the Commission on Appraisal. I am a May 2014 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. I have served two wonderful congregations as their Intern Minister; the first at Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois and the second at First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts. I pledge to bring my passion, my enthusiasm, and the valuable wisdom given to me by the Unitarian Universalists I have served and will serve to all the good work that awaits.

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS

Dr. Susan Goekler (4-year term)

Having served one term on the CSW, two years as chair, I offer my service for another term. I'd like to continue working with the UUA Board and staff on discerning how the UUA can best engage in social witness and the respective roles of congregations, staff, and CSW. Before joining the CSW, I worked at both the congregational and district levels with my husband on engaging UUs in social witness and social justice activities.

As a third generation UU and a published author/ editor, I bring that knowledge and skills to the CSW. Professionally, I am CEO of a public health association whose members address health promotion and health equity.

Richard Bock (2-year term)

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (and Plandome) for over fifty years, I bring to the UUA extensive leadership involvement on the Congregational level. I have been President of the Congregation, Vice President, and also Trustee on the Board. In addition, I have served several three-year terms as a Trustee and member of several board committees of the New York Metro District. Over the years, my passion for Unitarian Universalism has grown to a point that now more than ever before we need to spread our liberal religious message and grow our denomination and I aspire to be a part of this effort.

BOARD OF REVIEW

John Bohman

John is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (Virginia) (UUCA). He is currently on the Board of Trustees at UUCA and a Worship Associate. He served as president of the congregation during its recent two-year period of transitional ministry. John has chaired a Committee on Ministry, as well as a ministerial search committee, and various ministerial advisory committees and task forces. He is a decades long member of the choir, occasional soloist at services, and actor in UUCA's Chalice Theater. Professionally, John is a union-side labor and employee benefits attorney in private practice.

The Rev. Brian Covell

The Rev. Brian H. Covell completed an eleven-year pastorate at Chicago's Third Unitarian Church in August 2014. During his tenure he served as Recording Secretary and then President of the UUA's Central Midwest District. Along with the presidents of the contiguous Prairie Star and Heartland Districts, he took a lead role in the formation of the MidAmerica Region in 2013—the first such form of judicatory governance in the denomination's history. He also served as Vice President and then President of the Chicago Area UU Council, and in 2011 he received the Jean Kapuscik Excellence in Ministry Award, as nominated by the Central Midwest District's UU Minister Association chapter.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ila Klion

A native Floridian, Ila joined River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation with her husband in 1999. A year later, she was elected to serve as Secretary of the congregation's Board of Trustees and attended Florida Leadership School. Ila served two years as vice-president, followed by four years (two terms) as president of the congregation's board.

During the last year of her presidency, Ila was elected to serve as a Director at Large on the UUA Florida District Board of Directors. She served the Florida District as a Director at Large, Vice President and for two-terms as President of the Board of Directors. She is also a Healthy Congregation Consultant in the Southern Region of the UUA.

Currently, Ila is serving the second year of her second two-year appointed term on the General Assembly Planning Committee.

The Rev. Paul Langston-Daly

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley has been serving the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford since 2012. He is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and the International Institute for Restorative Practices. Paul has served congregations in NY, CA, PA, and AZ.

He has served our Association in both District and UUMA Chapter leadership in the areas he has served our congregations. Paul was appointed to GAPC in 2013 and serves as liaison to the Worship Arts Team.

His son lives in California and he and his wife Victoria live in New Bedford with their two dogs.

The Rev. Jennifer Gray

I am delighted to be a candidate for election to the GA planning committee. The first time I attended General Assembly it changed my life and my relationship to Unitarian Universalist. It was in being with 3,000+ other UUs who were also working to learn more about creating justice and community that I realized I wanted to do this work all the time. I decided to become a minister while at General Assembly, and have recently accomplished that goal. General Assembly reminds our individuals and congregations that we do not exist in a vacuum. Unitarian Universalists across the country are working to bring more love, and justice into the world. It would be an honor to be on the committee planning this transformational part of our life together.

Katherine Allen

I feel honored to be nominated for the UUA General Assembly Planning Committee. As both a former Trustee-At-Large for the UUA Board of Trustees and a member of Unity Church-Unitarian in Saint Paul I have learned how much Unitarian Universalism means to me and how important General Assembly is for the governance of the UUA, for spiritual renewal for those who attend, and for the exchange of ideas of how to make our congregations strong, healthy, and good advocates for the issues they are passionate about. I am excited to have the opportunity to help shape General Assembly for the next few years and hope to give back to the community that has given me so much.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elissa McDavid (1-yr term)

Unitarian Universalism has played a pivotal role throughout my life. Whether it was learning Spirit of Life in a religious education class or the leadership opportunities I had as a youth, this faith has helped formed and still is forming me. I've been involved with the leadership of our association since my high school years and the youth community will always play a role in my understanding and thus my leadership in Unitarian Universalism. But now as a Young Adult, I am excited to apply my knowledge and passion into the Nominating Committee. It will be an honor to serve in

this position and continue to express my fierce love for our faith.

The Rev. Joe Cherry

The Rev. Joe Cherry has been an active Unitarian Universalist since 1996. Born near Detroit, he has lived in, and served congregations in Chicago, Vancouver BC, England, California, and currently in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. His partner, Rev. Denis Paul serves our church in Kirtland, Ohio.

Joe began his journey in church leadership on the Religious Education Council of his home church, and later the Board of Trustees. He attended Meadville Lombard and while in seminary he served in student leadership. After graduating and moving to California, Joe served on the Growth Committee of the Pacific Central District. In 2014 Joe was appointed to the UUA Nominating Committee.

Steven Ballesteros

As a child I was adopted with my differently abled sister from traumatic circumstances into a loving family of two mothers and an older sister who has since passed from the AIDS virus. My family found home in Unitarian Universalist communities of Tucson, over 10 years ago. I have felt called to Ministry since late childhood, as was one my mothers. As a lay leader in my church and a member of my District Youth Board and the UUA Youth Ministry Advisory Committee I dedicated my energy to empowering my fellow millenials and those of historically marginalized identities. I hope to bring this same spirit and intention to this committee.

Aisha Hauser

Aisha holds a Master of Social Work degree and is a Credentialed Religious Educator at the Associate Level. She currently serves the East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, WA. Prior to coming to East Shore in 2013, Aisha served as Director of Religious Education in two east coast churches. In one congregation she also held the position of Urban Community Ministry Coordinator. This dual role afforded her the opportunity to combine justice work with religious education and to practice true "Faith in Action." Most recently Aisha served as Children and Families Program Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Aisha is active in the Liberal Religious Educators Association and an active member of the Unitarian Universalist community of ministers and religious educators of color. Every year she attends the community's "Finding Our Way Home."

ENDS for the Unitarian Universalist Association: UUA Governance Manual Section One

These ENDS are also known as the “Global ENDS” and as the “Shared Vision” of the Association.

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