

MINUTES

**FIFTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
HELD IN KANSAS CITY, MO**

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at approximately 7:30 p.m., by Co-Moderators Elandria Williams and Mr. Barb Greve at the Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO.

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

The Assembly received written and, in some cases verbal, reports from the President, the Co-Moderators, the Treasurer, the Annual Program Fund, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the UUA Staff, the Commission on Social Witness, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Institutional Change, Black Lives of UU, Beacon Press, the Presidential Search Committee, the Renewing the Covenant Task Force, the Annual Program Fund, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UU College of Social Justice, and the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation.

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

Members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee presented the 2018 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Danielle Di Bona and the Rev. Dr. Charles Gains.

Action on Bylaw Amendments

The Assembly passed by a vote of two-thirds or more proposed amendments to the bylaws so as to read as follows:

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

Section C-2.1. Principles.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic [woman and men] people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love.

Voting for Religious Educators

Section 4.8. Delegates

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

Youth Trustees

Section 6.3. Membership.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

- (a) the President, without vote, the Moderator and the Financial Advisor; [and]
- (b) eleven trustees [elected at large]; and
- (c) two youth trustees who, as of the date they commence service as trustees, are of high school age, or the equivalent, and are able to complete their term while of high school age.

Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.

- (a) One-third, as nearly as possible, of the non-Youth members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at each regular General Assembly.
- (b) The Board of Trustees shall assign a number to each trustee position for the purposes of electing trustees.
- (c) One Youth Trustee shall be elected at each regular General Assembly.

Section 6.5. Term.

- (a) Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected, and shall serve for terms of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Any partial term of more than two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of this Section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms. However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has served as an elected officer for a full term or as a trustee for two full terms shall thereafter be elected a trustee without an interim of at least three years.

- (b) A Youth trustee shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected, and shall serve for a term of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified. No Youth trustee may serve more

than one term. The term of a Youth trustee is equivalent to one full term as defined in Section 6.5, for the purposes of eligibility for election as a trustee.

Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.

- (a) Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation. A trustee who ceases to meet these qualifications shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. Not more than one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a member of a member congregation in which another trustee is already a member, such Trustee shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules for the application of this Section to persons holding membership in more than one member congregation.

- (b) Youth trustees shall be a member of a member congregation if their congregation allows for youth membership. If their congregation does not allow for youth membership, the President, Minister or Religious Educator of that congregation shall submit a written notice to the Nominating Committee of the Youth trustee's affiliation with the congregation before the person may be nominated to serve as a Youth trustee. A Youth trustee shall not be a Member of or be affiliated with the same congregation as any other trustee.

Section 6.11. Special Meetings.

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

Rule G-9.13.2. Order of Names on Ballot.

On all ballots used in elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the Secretary and witnessed by two other persons; provided, however, that the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees, other than Youth trustee, shall be by Board position number first, and then as determined above. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.

Committee Terms

Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.

Except as otherwise provided, the terms of members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be two years beginning at the close of the regular General Assembly [in odd-numbered years]. Members shall be appointed no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Co-Moderators

Section 8.8. Moderator.

- (a) The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as Chief Governance Officer of the Association.
- (b) As used in these Bylaws, the term “Moderator” may refer to a single individual, or to multiple individuals, serving in the position, even though the word “Moderator” may appear in the singular form of the word.

Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

- (a) For the position of President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected; provided, however, that (i) in construing the foregoing with respect to Trustee positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective position; and (ii) in construing this section, a duly nominated candidate for the position of Moderator may consist of more than one person. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc., choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.

Gender Neutral Pronouns

The following language will be added to the updated bylaws, following the Table of Contents and before the enumerated lines of bylaw text:

The pronouns “they” and “their” are used in these Bylaws and Rules in place of the singular gender pronouns “he,” “she,” “his,” and “hers,” and refer to a single individual unless the context indicates otherwise.

Section 8.3. Term of Office.

(a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly and shall take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.

- (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six years and until their [his or her] successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
- (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall serve for a term of six years and until their [his or her] successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
- (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of three years and until their [his or her] successor is elected and qualified.

No Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.

In the event an Executive Vice President should be appointed, the Board of Trustees shall describe their [his or her] duties.

Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.

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

- (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to election procedures;
- (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the Rules; or
- (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

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

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

The Association, to the extent legally permissible, shall indemnify any trustee, officer, employee of the Association or volunteer elected by a General Assembly or appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Association to serve the Association, or persons formerly holding such positions, against all liabilities and expenses (including court costs, attorneys' fees, and the amount of any

judgment or reasonable settlement, fines and penalties) actually and necessarily incurred by any such person, subsequent to the adoption hereof, in connection with the defense of any claim asserted or threatened to be asserted against any such person, or any action, suit or proceeding in which any such person may be involved as a party, by reason of being or having been such trustee, officer, employee or volunteer or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken or omitted by any such person as such trustee, officer, employee or volunteer, except with respect to any matter as to which they [he or she] shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that their [his or her] action was in the best interests of the Association; provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise payment by such person, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise and indemnification therefore shall be approved:

- (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of disinterested trustees;
- (b) if such quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of a committee of the Board of Trustees consisting of all the disinterested trustees;
- (c) if there are not two or more disinterested trustees in office, then by a majority of the trustees then in office, provided they have obtained a written finding by independent legal counsel appointed by a majority of the trustees to the effect that, based upon a reasonable investigation of the relevant facts as described such opinion, the person to be indemnified appears to have acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that their [his or her] action was in the best interests of the Association;
- (d) if not resolved by (a), (b) or (c), above, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

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

Rule 4.6.2. Time of Notice.

Notice so sent shall be sufficient if mailed at Boston, Massachusetts, sixty days before any such General Assembly, addressed to the persons who according to the records of the Association are entitled thereto hereunder and sent to the addresses which appear on said records. When the

Secretary in their [his or her] absolute discretion finds it desirable and practicable, a copy of the notice shall be inserted in the denomination’s publication most widely circulated within the denomination, in the issue which will be circulated as near to sixty days before the General Assembly as possible.

Rule G-9.13.5. Balloting at General Assembly.

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

Social Witness Process Timeline

Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.

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

(a) First Cycle Year

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

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

[(3)](2) For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified

congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.

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

[(i)](3) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly; provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.

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

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

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

(b) Second Cycle Year

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

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

(c) Third Cycle Year

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

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

[(3)] The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, [a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form,] and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda during General Assembly in the third Cycle year shall be included in the Congregational Poll. [, to be made available and congregations notified

of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be given to the congregations. Congregational Poll ballots and the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).

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

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

[(d) Fourth Cycle Year]

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) [Prior to 2018, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the agenda.

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

(3) [A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to the agenda must be submitted by a delegate and signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations. If six petitions or fewer are received, all petitions received that have the requisite level of delegate and congregation support are eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda. In the event more than six petitions are submitted that satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the Commission on Social Witness shall select six from among those which meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and shall submit those six actions to the agenda of the General Assembly for possible admission. The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare summaries of no more than six petitions and present those summaries to the General Assembly for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate support. The three petitions receiving the most votes are eligible for admission to the agenda. If there are submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the agenda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISTRICT/REGION UPDATES

Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.

A special General Assembly may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon petition of not less than fifty certified member congregations by action of the governing boards or their congregations. No more than twenty of the fifty congregations may be from the same district **or region**.

A proposed amendment to add bylaw Section 6.16, “Congregational Linkage,” failed to achieve the two-thirds vote necessary for adoption.”

Actions of Immediate Witness

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

We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors

We, the 57th General Assembly of the UUA, which is meeting in Kansas City on the banks of the Missouri River, call for ongoing solidarity with Indigenous Water Protectors because:

Indigenous peoples of this continent lived by traditions that maintained ecological balance for thousands of years before colonization.

Colonization is an oppressive system that values resource extraction over life itself and is directly linked to genocide of Indigenous peoples. This colonization involves sequestering Indigenous peoples on reservations, flooding Indigenous lands, incarcerating disproportionate numbers of Indigenous peoples, and other forms of oppression.

Lakota/Dakota/Nakota (Sioux) peoples rose up in prayerful action to oppose construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline on Great Sioux Nation Treaty Land and to protect the Missouri River, which is the water source for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and millions downstream.

People from more than 300 Indigenous nations responded to the call at Standing Rock, as did allies of many colors, which created an intercultural community of transformation and prayerful resistance lasting for four seasons.

Unprecedented numbers of Unitarian Universalists, Indigenous and otherwise, were propelled by our values to respond to this call for solidarity and were generally welcomed as relatives.

Unitarian Universalists play a unique role among faith communities, forming strong bonds as relatives with Indigenous Water Protectors, in North Dakota’s atmosphere of antagonism.

Seven Indigenous Water Protectors face federal charges in Bismarck-Mandan. A National Jury Project randomized survey concluded that 77% of the jury-eligible population in Morton County

and 85% in Burleigh County have already decided that Water Protectors are guilty, yet requests to change trial venues have been denied.

Efforts to colonize Indigenous peoples are now resulting in federal prison sentences for Water Protectors, interrupting familial and communal bonds, as well as traditional spiritual practices and ways of life.

As Unitarian Universalists:

1. We express our gratitude to Standing Rock, Sacred Stone Camp, Oceti Sakowin Camp, Sicangu Rosebud Camp, and associated camps for welcoming us as relatives and affirming that all people belong to the human family.
2. We affirm solidarity with Water Protectors, including defendants, inmates, and their loved ones.
3. We pledge our direct and tangible support for local Indigenous movements that seek to protect the environment and restore traditional Indigenous ways of life.
4. As people, congregations, and a wider association, we commit to extend relationships of solidarity with Water Protectors, leveraging our spiritual, financial, human, and infrastructural resources in support of Water Protectors, especially those who face ongoing charges and prison sentences, and their loved ones.
5. We ask the UUA to supply materials and guidance to help implement this Action of Immediate Witness.

**Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices
in Prisons and End Prisons for Profit**

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists recognize the humanity, worth, and dignity of all people within and outside of our membership; and

BECAUSE UUs are called to uphold that everyone is worthy of love and justice.

WHEREAS, for-profit prisons encourage longer terms of incarceration and maximize profit by minimizing services and rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC), under the influence of private prison companies that supply goods and services to prisons for profit, is a system of oppression that perpetuates and further criminalizes poverty;

WHEREAS, the PIC is an entrenched system of white supremacy where guilt and innocence are influenced by skin color and economic privilege, regardless of behavior;

WHEREAS, the federal prison system, thirty-five state prisons, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) charge for necessary medical care using private, for-profit medical companies;

WHEREAS, the membership of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) includes 870 incarcerated people, many of whom have medical needs but no resources to pay for them.

WHEREAS, medical treatment must be paid before necessities such as soap, shampoo, stamps, and over-the-counter medicines may be purchased;

WHEREAS, incarcerated CLF members include 200 people living in Texas and Georgia prisons who receive no wages, but are still charged for medical care, leaving some unable to access adequate treatment, thus perpetuating illness, debility, insurmountable debt, and chronic poverty;

WHEREAS, people in prisons are dying every day due to prohibitive medical cost;

WHEREAS the US Supreme Court ruled in Estelle v. Gamble (1976) that ignoring a prisoner’s serious medical needs amounts to cruel and unusual punishment; and

WHEREAS The Federal Bureau of Prisons is violating Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) that states, “The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners . . . should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge . . .”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association denounces the predatory practice of charging medical fees to people in prison and calls upon UU congregations to:

1. Contact Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner to urge him to sign HB 5104, which is currently on his desk, a bill that would end medical fees for people incarcerated in Illinois;
2. Contact Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and state legislators to demand an end to fee-for-service medical care in prisons in their states;
3. Publicly oppose the practices of Corizon Health, which profits from privatized health care in Kansas, Missouri, and twenty other states, as well as Wexford Health, MHM Services Inc., and other companies that supply health care at local, state, and federal prisons and ICE detention facilities;
4. Insist the United Nations World Health Organization press the US to uphold Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; and
5. Ensure that the medical treatment of prisoners conforms with Estelle vs. Gamble in every state.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS TO:

1. Get more deeply involved in direct service prison ministry through such actions as beginning or joining local prison ministry efforts within congregations or community organizations; networking with others engaged in prison ministry; leading worship or small group ministry within prisons; becoming a pen pal; and welcoming post-incarcerated persons into your congregation; and
2. Continue to educate themselves on the adverse impacts of prison privatization and the many injustices in the PIC such as a) grossly disproportionate impact on marginalized

groups, b) solitary confinement practices, c) prison-based gerrymandering, d) voter disenfranchisement and e) employment discrimination.

End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE

BECAUSE of UU Principles 1, 2, 6, and 7 and the 2013 Statement of Conscience entitled *Immigration as a Moral Issue*; and

WHEREAS, white supremacy and colonization permeate societal systems;

WHEREAS, zero-tolerance policy forces family separation;

WHEREAS, asylum seekers are detained, criminalized, and dehumanized;

WHEREAS, certain established asylum protections have been dismantled;

WHEREAS, current immigration policy fails to honor some of our treaties/conventions/protocols, and established immigration law;

WHEREAS, the U.S. has withdrawn from the United Nations Human Rights Council;

WHEREAS, white supremacy criminalizes black and brown people and the exercise of their rights;

WHEREAS, children are torn from their families at borders, conflict zones, and occupied territories around the globe;

WHEREAS, children are abused and drugged in detention and shelters;

WHEREAS, incarceration and separation cause trauma to adults and children; and

WHEREAS, this is an urgent and emerging crisis that calls UUs to act now. The Trump Administration has instituted a zero-tolerance practice of unilaterally detaining and separating family members of asylum seekers and other immigrants. It subsequently issued an Executive Order (EO) that purportedly ends the practice while denying responsibility for creating the crisis in the first place. The EO does not address or require the reunification of children already separated from their families. Additionally, there is no guarantee of the immediate or future safety and appropriate treatment of asylum seekers. The administration has requested that the courts revise a 1997 ruling that prevents detaining children for more than 20 days. They are expressly asking to detain children with their families for the duration of their legal proceedings. ICE has a history of terrorizing and abusing immigrants and operating outside the law. As the agency carrying out the administration's barbaric policies, it must be dismantled so humane and appropriate processes and agencies can be created.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 57th General Assembly calls upon the UUA and member congregations should use their moral authority to demand the immediate:

- Reunification of children taken from their families seeking asylum in the U.S.;
- End of the policy of incarcerating asylum seekers, including those in family detention;
- Investigation and cessation of the inappropriate administration of psychiatric drugs to children in detention and shelters;
- Investigation and prosecution of claims that children in detention and shelters are being sexually and physically abused;
- Abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and implementation of a system that understands the causes for immigration, provides a non-carceral solution while asylum seekers await a decision on their case, and has a fundamental commitment to keeping families together; and
- Removal of immigration oversight from the Department of Homeland Security.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 57th General Assembly of the UUA calls on Unitarian Universalists to:

- Participate in the June 30th nationwide Mass Mobilization;
- Participate in the July 2nd events at border areas;
- Host interfaith vigils to lift our prophetic voices;
- Carry out strategic direct action in collaboration with, and/or at the direction of, immigrant-led groups;
- Advocate for comprehensive, humane immigration reform;
- Advocate for the US to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Boycott and divest from corporations that provide services and products to global agencies involved in family separation and detention;
- Support UU and its partner organizations and the immigrant coalition groups to whom they are accountable including UU Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE), Mijente, Freedom for Immigrants, Mano Amiga San Marcos, ACLU, Association of Immigration Lawyers, UU State Action Networks, through donations and volunteer efforts; and
- Build accountable relationships with immigrant-led groups, supporting their efforts without usurping leadership.

By a majority voice vote, the Assembly affirmed the sentiment of the three additional actions of immediate of witness that were submitted but not added to the Final Agenda.

Vote on Congregational Study/Action Issue

By a majority vote, the Assembly voted to study the following congregational study/action issue: “Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy.” The final text of the CSAI will be archived on UUA.org.

Election Results

The following individuals were elected in uncontested elections:

Co-Moderators: Mr. Barb Greve & Elandria Williams

Board of Trustees: Patrick McLaughlin, Tim Atkins, Greg Boyd & Latifah Woodhouse

Nominating Committee: Joe Cherry, Aisha Hauser, Sana Saeed

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association, as corrected, was as follows: accredited and attending the 57th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1371 on-site member delegates, 290 ministerial delegates, three credentialed religious educators, three associate member delegates, twenty-one delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count), and 169 off-site delegates, for a total of 1570 delegates representing 522 congregations, fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Mexico. Total on-site registration for the Assembly was 2677 including 134 youth.

Offsite attendance included 225 individuals from thirty-seven states, including 169 member delegates and twenty-nine minister delegates. Forty-five congregations registered only off-site delegates.

Closing

The Assembly was adjourned *sine die* by Co-Moderators Mr. Barb Greve and Elandria Williams at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald,
Executive Vice President