

1962-63

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to notice duly given, the first General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association was held in Washington, D. C. at the Statler Hilton Hotel and was called to order on May 24, 1962 at 9:15 a.m. by the Moderator, Dr. Marshall E. Dimock.

After a devotional service conducted by Dr. Harmon M. Gehr, minister of the Throop Memorial Universalist Church of Pasadena, California, the Moderator introduced Mr. Theodore Sorensen who brought greetings from the White House and from the host city of Washington.

The first item of business transacted by the General Assembly was to amend temporarily Section 2 of Article V of the By-Laws. The amendment provided that each existing Council and Conference formerly recognized by American Unitarian Association and each existing Universalist State Convention should be entitled to be represented by two delegates at the 1962 General Assembly. The General Assembly also VOTED that this temporary amendment should stand repealed at the adjournment of the 1962 General Assembly at which time the original section would stand reinstated.

The General Assembly also VOTED to amend the By-Laws (but not temporarily) to provide that the Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, should be represented at General Assembly meetings by its minister and four other delegates.

The General Assembly next adopted general rules of procedure.

The Moderator then called upon the President, Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, the Secretary, Mrs. J. Russell Bowman, and the Treasurer, Mr. Wilson C. Piper. These officers reported to the Association on the work that had been done since the organizing meeting in 1961 and on the state of the affairs of the Association.

Following these reports additional reports were made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee and the Chairman of the Committee on Allocations.

Rev. Richard Henry of Denver, Colorado, Chairman of a Committee of the Board of Trustees appointed to negotiate with Councils and Conferences formerly recognized by American Unitarian Association and existing Universalist State Conventions to achieve the formation of groups of churches and fellowships into Districts, reported for his Committee; and the General Assembly VOTED to recognize formally the following as organized Districts of the Association:

- The Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- The Pacific Central District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- The Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- The Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference.
- The Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Societies.
- The Unitarian Universalist Connecticut Valley District.

The Central Massachusetts District of Unitarian Universalist Churches.
The Ballou-Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
The Boston District of Unitarian Universalist Churches.
The New Hampshire-Vermont District of Unitarian Universalist Association.
The Northeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
Canadian Unitarian Council.

From the floor, notice was given to the meeting that the Boston District of Unitarian Universalist Churches is a name being used only temporarily.

The General Assembly next considered two appeals, one relating to the Ministerial Fellowship status of Rev. David J. Hayeman of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the other relating to the dissolution of the Church of the Messiah of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the outset, special procedural rules applicable only to these two cases were adopted by the meeting. Both cases arose prior to Consolidation and by appeals came before the General Assembly after decisions had been made by the Fellowship Committee of the Pennsylvania State Convention and successive appeals had been taken and decided by the Central Fellowship Committee of The Universalist Church of America and by the Board of Trustees of Unitarian Universalist Association.

The final appeal relating to the Ministerial Fellowship status of Mr. Hayeman was from a decision of the Board of Trustees of the Association holding that Mr. Hayeman was entitled to remain in full Fellowship. At the General Assembly no one undertook to prosecute the appeal, and the General Assembly VOTED to sustain the action of the Board of Trustees and to dismiss the appeal.

On the question whether the Church of the Messiah had been properly dissolved, the Board of Trustees of the Association had held in an appeal heard by it that the Church of the Messiah had been properly dissolved. In this case Mr. Hayeman and Rev. Alan F. Sawyer, Jr. were the appellants and appeared by counsel. Mr. Hayeman was present. They urged the General Assembly to overrule the decision of the Board of Trustees. The Church was also represented at the General Assembly by counsel. The General Assembly heard a report of an ad hoc committee appointed by the Moderator before the General Assembly convened to review the case in all its aspects, and upon consideration of this report, and of the action taken by the Board of Trustees, and after hearing statements by counsel for Mr. Hayeman and counsel for the Church and also hearing statements and arguments by delegates, it was VOTED to sustain the action of the Board of Trustees and to dismiss the appeal. The vote was 422 in the affirmative and 145 in the negative.

Following the disposition of the two appeals, Standing Rules pertaining to appeals to the General Assembly in Ministerial Fellowship matters, including Special Rules applicable to appeals filed in cases which arose prior to Consolidation, were submitted for consideration. The text of the proposed rules were in the hands of all delegates. By VOTE of the General Assembly, the rules were adopted. A copy of the rules is attached to the original minutes of the Recording Secretary. Printed copies may be obtained from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

The Secretary of the Association then read into the record of the meeting the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution which had been duly filed. The proposals were as follows:

Objectives of the Association

It is proposed to amend Article II, Section 2 by striking out Section 2 in its entirety and substituting the following new Section 2.

Uniting in the worship of God and the service of man in the promotion of the knowledge and interests of religion as taught by the master prophets of mankind, we affirm our faith:

In God, as eternal and all-creative love,
In the spiritual leadership of Jesus, and the teachings of Buddha,
Moses, Mohammed and all the God-men of all the ages,
In the supreme worth of every human personality,
In the authority of truth, known and to be known,
And in the power of men of good will and sacrificial spirit to overcome all evil and progressively establish the Kingdom of God.

It is proposed to amend Article II, Section 2(2) by striking out sub-section 2 in its entirety and substituting the following new sub-section 2.

To cherish and spread the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition.

Right of a Church or Fellowship to Have Delegates At Meetings of the Association

It is proposed to add a new sub-section (5) to Article III, Section 4 as follows:

(5) Maintained a policy of admitting persons to membership without discrimination on account of race, color or national origin.

Regions

It is proposed to amend Article V by changing the title from "Regions" to "Regional Organizations and Services" and striking out the word "Regions" wherever it appears in Article V and inserting in place of that word the words "Districts or Service Centers."

The General Assembly next proceeded to consider and act upon twenty-two proposed amendments to the By-Laws. To facilitate this consideration, and in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly, the General Assembly was dissolved into a Committee of the Whole. Some of the proposals were rejected and some of those adopted were first amended from the floor. For the text of the proposed amendments, reference is made to the Final Agenda for the First Meeting of the General Assembly. A copy of the Final Agenda is attached to the original minutes of the Recording Secretary.

Following the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole, the Committee of the Whole was dissolved and the General Assembly VOTED unanimously that the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole be entered in the records of this meeting of the General Assembly and that all proposals to change the By-Laws of the Associations as finally approved by the Committee of the Whole be now adopted, the said changes to take effect in the manner and at the time designated by the Committee of the Whole.

The proceedings of the Committee of the Whole are set forth verbatim in the transcript of the official stenographer who was in attendance through-

out the entire meeting of the General Assembly. So much of that part of said transcript as relates to the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole is hereby incorporated by reference in the original minutes of the Recording Secretary. A complete copy of the By-Laws of the Association as amended by the action of the First General Assembly is attached to the original minutes of the Recording Secretary, and the By-Laws, as so amended, are also printed in the 1962-1963 Directory of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The General Assembly next considered and acted upon items of General Business.

It adopted the following Resolution entitled "Financial Commitment."

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists confront a tremendous opportunity for the advance of liberal religion in their local communities and the continent at large;

WHEREAS, sufficient financial resources are not available for the implementation of this advance;

WHEREAS, the average contribution of the Association from churches and fellowships still falls far below the sacrificial giving of members of most other denominations;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists expect responsibility from their elective officials in their local churches and the denomination in the administration of fiscal affairs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this General Assembly call upon all members of our churches and fellowships to support with earnest dedication, by their financial contributions, the budgets of their fellowships, churches and denomination.

A Resolution that the First General Assembly recommend, as an item of business for the General Assembly in 1963, an amendment to the Constitution to rename the Association the "Liberal Church of America" was defeated.

The Moderator explained to the meeting that a negotiating committee representing the Association and Unitarian Service Committee, Inc. had been exploring ways and means to work out better arrangements under which the programs of the Association's Department of Service Projects and the programs of Unitarian Service Committee, Inc. might be carried on and the effectiveness of the world service of the new denomination might be increased.

Rev. Donald S. Harrington, the Chairman of the Association's half of the negotiating committee, stated that significant progress had been made but the committee needed more time. Whereupon the General Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the General Assembly permit the negotiating committee to continue its deliberations without prejudicing their efforts by premature action on a resolution at this General Assembly, looking forward to a concrete proposal at the General Assembly in 1963; and further that all Unitarian Universalist churches continue to support the work of the Department of Service Projects of Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Service Committee, Inc.

In the matter of the merger of the Universalist Publishing House with

the Association, it was explained that special legislation enacted by the Massachusetts legislature authorizing the merger required acceptance by the Association and by the Publishing House. It was announced that the Publishing House had already accepted the legislation.

The General Assembly then VOTED that Sections 2 to 8 inclusive of Chapter 156 of the 1962 Acts of the Massachusetts legislature be and the same hereby are accepted, and that the Recording Secretary of the Association is hereby authorized and directed to file with the Secretary of State for The Commonwealth of Massachusetts such affidavit and certificate as are required by the provisions of such act.

It was also explained to the meeting that in the next few years similar legislative acts would probably be required to complete the consolidation or merger of other organizations with the Association and that invariably such acts would require the consolidating or merging bodies to accept the same. It was also pointed out that it is not always convenient to defer the effective date of such consolidations or mergers until the General Assembly could act thereon.

On recommendations of the Business Committee and with the advice of the Treasurer and General Counsel, the General Assembly VOTED that the Board of Trustees of the Association be and are hereby authorized in the name and behalf of the Association to accept Legislative Acts which permit merger, consolidation, or other forms of affiliation between the Association and Regions, Councils, Conferences and other organizations, and that the Board of Trustees be and are hereby authorized to initiate legislation relating to mergers or consolidations or affiliations and in the name of the Association to file and present the same to any legislative body.

On a proposal to establish a travel equalization plan for the General Assembly the following resolution was adopted, 295 persons voting in the affirmative and 245 persons voting in the negative.

WHEREAS, we believe that some equitable distribution of cost and delegate attendance at General Assembly meetings is essential in order to encourage as widely representative delegate participation as possible; and

WHEREAS, we believe that a Travel Equalization plan is a feasible way to accomplish this purpose;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association to appoint a Committee of not less than five and not more than seven persons to study the whole question of travel equalization for delegates attending General Assembly meetings and to submit a travel equalization plan or plans to the 1963 General Assembly for action, and that such plan or plans be submitted to the member churches and fellowships at least sixty days in advance of said meeting.

The General Assembly adopted the following resolution entitled "Status of Resolutions in Churches of Congregational Polity."

WHEREAS, churches associated in congregational polity frequently desire, through the orderly method of democratic parliamentary procedure, to express their ethical concerns and judgment on important contemporary issues, and to implement the same to the end that opinion both within the denomination and outside it may be enlightened on the issue and brought to intelligent decision for action; and

WHEREAS, congregational polity guarantees the liberty of churches, fellowships and individuals to arrive at their own conclusions, without being bound in any dogmatic sense to agreement with resolutions thus adopted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that General Resolutions duly considered and adopted by the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association be considered the expressed view of that General Assembly, representative of the gathered delegates of the Association's churches and fellowships, without in any sense being considered the unanimous opinion of the churches and fellowships, or their individual members; be commended to the denomination as a basis for study and action; and be implemented by being brought to the attention of the public and appropriate agencies of Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a report of the vote of the General Assembly, when an actual count has been made, be made part of the public record of the adopted General Resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees, appropriate officers, departments and agencies of the Unitarian Universalist Association be urged to undertake such programs of publicity, education, and persuasion as will fittingly implement the purpose of the adopted resolutions.

Upon completion of the items of general business, the Moderator presented his annual report in the form of an address to the meeting.

The Moderator then requested the Chairman of the Business Committee to preside during the consideration of General Resolutions.

Upon completion of the consideration of General Resolutions, the final report of the Committee on Credentials was presented by Mr. Emery M. Foster.

Lay Delegates	775
Ministerial Delegates	276
Life Members	0
Associate Members	14
Members of the Board of Trustees	10
Regional and State Convention Delegates	16
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	1071

350 churches and 48 fellowships were represented by delegates from 40 states, the District of Columbia and 4 provinces.

Following the final report of the Credentials Committee, Rev. Walter Royal Jones, Chairman of the Business Committee, turned the Chair back to the Moderator of the Association.

The Moderator then called on the President of the Association, who pronounced the benediction.

The first meeting of the General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association was adjourned on May 26, 1962 at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE S. BOWMAN
Recording Secretary

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

POPULATION

WHEREAS, famine and illiteracy are fundamental problems in the world; and

WHEREAS, an uncontrolled and unplanned population growth is a fundamental factor increasing these problems by exceeding economic, educational, and agricultural development of many regions and countries; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that widespread, effective and voluntary use of medically sound and individually acceptable birth control is an essential factor in a human design to raise world living standards and achieve international peace, as well as social stability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the Congress of the United States and the Parliament of Canada to pass legislation:

1. Giving financial and scientific support to the intensive research now being made to discover inexpensive, harmless and effective birth control methods, and
2. Permitting the dissemination of family planning and birth control information to those nations which request such information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that local, state, federal and provincial governments be urged to:

1. Remove restrictions prohibiting the responsible distribution of birth control information and devices, and
2. Allow welfare and similar agencies to aid in birth control measures where desired.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, the United Nations has continually commanded our support as the world's best hope for peaceful cooperation among its peoples, and according to opinion polls continues to command preponderant support from our American people; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations is under attack from extremists and even some leaders of political parties of the United States, and faces a serious financial crisis which may well threaten its survival; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations needs to be strengthened until eventually it may become an instrument for enforceable disarmament and the achievement of an orderly rule of law in the world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association in its first General Assembly in May, 1962, reaffirms its support of the United Nations and urge the Department of Adult Programs to develop a continuing program of study and group discussion in our churches and fellowships both of the United Nations and how it can be strengthened, and seek ways to help individuals in the churches and fellowships to feel a sense of personal worth in their support of it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the General Assembly hereby instructs the Secretary of the Association immediately to inform the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee of our support of the United Nations bond issue as proposed by the President and our hope for its early adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that we urge American support of the United Nations Decade of Development program designed to help the underdeveloped nations help themselves in abolishing disease, illiteracy, and hunger, and thereby to decrease international tension and to lay the groundwork for a genuine peace with justice.

(VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY)

CIVIL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, segregation and discrimination wherever practiced continue to be a matter of major national and international concern and reflect attitudes contrary to moral, religious and ethical commitments; and

WHEREAS, such discrimination is economically wasteful and psychologically destructive to members both of majority and minority groups; and

WHEREAS, the treatment of a large part of our citizenship as second-class citizens and the indignities to which they and visitors from other countries are subjected shades world opinion and destroys confidence in the moral leadership of the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that members of Unitarian Universalist churches use their personal influence in their local communities to secure service without discrimination, in all places of public accommodation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the President of the United States to utilize all powers at his command, including that of Executive Order, especially to use that stroke of the pen to end discrimination in all housing projects which receive any Federal funds whatsoever, to secure compliance, where pertinent laws exist and promote progress in private sectors by virtue of his prestige and influence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the Congress of the United States to fulfill the civil rights commitments of the Republican and Democratic party platforms of 1960 for meaningful civil rights legislation; this would include the bipartisan Senate Bills 2979 through 2983, covering the literacy tests, school desegregation, the right of the Attorney General to initiate court cases where there is voting discrimination, a Fair Employment Practice Commission, and all of the recommendations of the President's Civil Rights Commission; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that all Unitarian Universalists be urged to refrain where possible from joining any and all organizations which discriminate on the basis of race, creed and national origin and to urge all individuals to work for elimination of discrimination in any organization of which they are already members.

(ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE)

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

WHEREAS, the principle of academic freedom is an intrinsic part of our civil liberties and basic to our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, education is an ever more important thread in our democratic fabric and is now in transition and stress due to the cold war and increasing international tension;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association uphold the constitutional right of teachers to hold their own political, social and economic ideals and to be judged on their professional merits.

(OVERWHELMINGLY ADOPTED)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

WHEREAS, the health of the world's people today and of the future generations is being endangered by the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons by a number of world powers; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons testing increases mutual fear and suspicion among the nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, such fear and suspicion increase the likelihood of a nuclear war which would threaten the world's population with destruction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges:

1. That the heads of government of the nations of the world carry out the United Nations Resolution of November 6, 1961 calling for a voluntary uninspected moratorium of nuclear weapons tests; and
2. That these heads of government then speedily negotiate a treaty providing for a permanent nuclear weapons test ban with adequate controls and supervision; and
3. The members of the Unitarian and Universalists congregations of the United States and Canada indicate their strong support of such actions to their respective elected representatives and heads of government.

(VOTE: 417 Yes — 118 No)

SHELTER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, a thermonuclear war would cause destruction beyond imagination; and

WHEREAS, fallout shelters would provide little protection against the blast and fire damage from a thermonuclear explosion; and

WHEREAS, national shelter programs would divert the creativity, energy and funds of the people to an essentially negative undertaking; and

WHEREAS, national shelter programs might lead to a compensating increase in any enemy's attack capabilities; and

WHEREAS, national shelter programs would foster the notion that thermonuclear war is tolerable—that such war could be won—they would create a climate in which nuclear war would be more likely.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association express grave doubts about national shelter programs, on moral, psychological and economic grounds, and urge that a nation's creativity, energy and funds be directed instead toward finding the means to settle international disputes without war of any kind.

(VOTE: 295 Yes — 189 No)

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA*

WHEREAS, democracy is the system of government established in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Districts of Columbia live under colonial status with appointed rather than elected city officials; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have previously experienced self-government for a period of seventy years; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the United States has passed on five separate occasions by large majority self-government measures for D. C.; and

WHEREAS, the present colonial status is unfair to District residents, and embarrassing to the United States government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the Congress to return self-government to the Capitol of the nation.

(VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY)

MODEL PENAL CODE*

WHEREAS, a modern approach to criminal law has been needed in this country for many years; and

WHEREAS, Unitarians and Universalists have for many years supported more humanitarian dealings with persons charged and convicted of crime in this country; and

WHEREAS, the American Law Institute, after many years of study and consideration has, on the 24th day of May, 1962, at its meeting in Washington, D. C. adopted a model penal code to be presented to lawmakers in the various states and the Congress for consideration and action;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Unitarian Universalist Association hereby congratulates the American Law Institute upon the adoption of this Model Penal Code and urges that the member churches and fellowships and their members be urged in their citizenship capacity to urge their elected State and National Representatives to explore this Model Penal Code and consider its adoption as rapidly as possible.

(ADOPTED OVERWHELMINGLY)

* These General Resolutions, not included in the Final Agenda, were introduced from the floor in accordance with Article VI, Section 6 (9) of the By-laws.