

Eleventh General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association

Held at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas

The General Assembly was convened by the Moderator at 8:45 a.m. on May 31, 1972 and was finally adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. on June 3, 1972. The first business session was called to order on May 31 at 8 p.m. A preliminary report of the Credentials Committee was presented and the Moderator declared that a quorum was present.

The General Assembly heard reports of the President, Dr. Robert West; the Moderator, Dr. Joseph L. Fisher; the Secretary, Russell F. Benson; the Treasurer, Arthur G. Root; the chairman of the Finance Committee, William N. Holway, the Vice President for Fund Raising, Dr. Philip R. Giles. Joseph B. Samples, Jr., chairman of the Commission on Appraisal presented its report. Daniel Michie, retiring President of the UUSC, also addressed the Assembly. Greetings of the British General Assembly were brought by Brian Golland, General Secretary.

The Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion was presented to Constance Burgess, retiring Executive Director of the UUWF.

The Clarence R. Skinner Award for the best sermon as an expression of the social concerns of Unitarian Universalism was made to Reverend Richard Gilbert for his sermon *Prophets of the Human Spirit—The Brothers Berrigan*.

The Holmes Weatherly Award for achievement in outstanding social prophecy was made to the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO.

The first annual Angus McLean Award for outstanding achievement in religious education was made to Joan Welch Gevin.

Frederic G. Melcher Book Award was made to Dr. William G. McLoughlin, Jr., for his book *New England Dissent 1630-1883*.

A special award for the best sermon on Unitarian Universalist Identity was made to Reverend Deane Starr for his sermon *Unitarian Universalist Mythology*.

Multi-media Identity Awards were made to Dot Muller and Lois Sepez for Kaleidoscope—Man and His Religion Unit; Mary Burton for Potentialities for Experiencing the Sacred; Half Vast Productions Unitarian Church West for The Eve of the Fifth Revelation and Mrs. Richard A. Herzberg for "What Can I Bring?"

Hymn Identity Awards were presented to Robert S. Lehman, Emily L. Thorn, Lloyd Elliott and Mary Evans Johnson.

Following recommendations made by the Planning Committee which had been presented to all societies in the Tentative Agenda, the General Assembly adopted Rules of Procedure to carry out the Planning Committee's proposals which called for the establishment of five committees of the General Assembly known as Mini-Assemblies. The Mini-Assemblies considered most of the items on the Final Agenda and in due course the recommendations of the Mini-Assemblies were reported to plenary sessions for action. The Rules of Procedure which were adopted were set forth in the Final Agenda and may be referred to.

The General Assembly took final action and the Constitution of the Association was repealed. The vote was unanimous. The vote provided that the repeal would not take effect until the final adjournment of the 1972 General Assembly.

Proposal to establish biennial meetings of the General Assembly was defeated. After a recount the final vote was 352 in affirmative, 187 in the negative, which was less than the two-thirds vote required.

The General Assembly adopted an amendment to the Bylaws providing that accredited religious education directors shall have the same delegate status accorded to ministers.

A Bylaw amendment proposing changes in the preparation of tentative and final agendas and procedures relating thereto was defeated.

A Bylaw amendment was adopted which provides that nomination procedures in connection with the election of the President in 1973 are to be governed by the Bylaw, forms of petition and rules and regulations in force on March 1, 1972.

A proposal to amend the standing rules of the General Assembly governing budget matters was defeated.

The General Assembly amended the Bylaws to provide new procedures in case of tie votes in elections.

No action was taken on a resolution entitled Black Affairs Council Funding. Instead the following alternate resolution was adopted:

Funding of Programs for Racial Justice

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association honor the request of the Unitarian Universalist Association Black Affairs Council, Inc. to discontinue any further discussion of funding from the continental annual budget of programs for racial justice; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the General Assembly urge the UUA Board of Trustees and the UUA Administration to support and cooperate with the educational and non-competitive fund raising efforts of all related Unitarian Universalist organizations active in the field of racial justice.

The General Assembly postponed indefinitely action on a proposal for the appointment of a Commission of Review of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

The following resolution was proposed:

Telephone Excise Tax

WHEREAS the telephone excise tax was levied specifically by Congress in 1966 to finance the war in Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, those voting in favor of the following do so with the intention of refusing payment of the Federal excise tax on telephones,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 1972 General Assembly urge all Unitarian Universalists to refuse payment of the telephone excise tax and urge the Unitarian Universalist Association to refuse such payment also.

In reply to a question from the floor, General Counsel informed the delegates that refusal to pay the telephone excise tax is a criminal offense; that the maximum penalties for willful refusal to pay the tax is one year in jail or a fine of \$10,000 or both, plus the payment of interest at the rate of 6% per annum on the unpaid tax.

After debate the resolution was adopted, 232 voting in the affirmative and 205 in the negative.

A resolution calling upon the General Assembly to request the Board of Trustees of the Association to restore the operating funds to individual districts and to use funds presently allocated to the inter-district organization for the benefit of individual districts was defeated.

BEACON PRESS INVESTIGATION

The following resolution entitled *Human Understanding Proposal* was adopted:

WHEREAS, the UUA has historically subscribed to the principle of oneness and equality of all human beings and

WHEREAS, the Association seeks to be guided by this principle in all its proceedings and programs; and

WHEREAS, the new educational programs of the Department of Education and Social Concern dealing with the biological and cultural evolution of humankind and humankind's relationship to all living beings should emphasize the oneness and equality of all humans (i.e., the human heritage curriculum series, the culture builder curriculum series, the human sexuality curriculum).

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the UUA continue its efforts to investigate and teach the nature of humanity, including the common traits, drives, etc. the relationship to other living beings, the evolutionary changes which have occurred throughout known history, the basis of the apparent "differences" and the place of human beings within the total natural order, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UUA implement this effort through the Department of Education and Social Concern and through other appropriate agencies of the Association in consultation with other concerned groups and individuals toward the end of promoting greater understanding, appreciation, adaptation, and programming among human beings.

The following resolution entitled *Social Responsibility in the Investment of Endowment Funds* was also adopted:

RESOLVED that the General Assembly recommends that the Board of Trustees:

1) cooperate with other religious, educational and charitable organizations in the development of programs to foster Social Responsibility in the investment of endowment funds and in the corporate management of companies in whose securities they invest;

2) support such efforts financially from the budget of the Department of Education and Social Concern;

3) designate as a principal priority the development of a program concerned with the role of American industry in the continuing exploitation and oppression of Blacks in Southern Africa, by means of an intensive program of education conducted by the UUA through the Department of Education and Social Concern and affiliated members; and

4) such efforts to be undertaken with special attention to the activities of corporations in matters relating to war and peace, environmental protection and racial justice.

The following resolution entitled *Project Equality* was also adopted:

WHEREAS, the 1970 General Assembly of the UUA by unanimous vote expressed its agreement with and support of Project Equality; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly of 1972 desires to demonstrate that the UUA implement its affirmations of social justice,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees as follows:

1) To encourage the UUA's present suppliers to cooperate with Project Equality;

2) To give preferential treatment to those suppliers which cooperate with Project Equality, and

3) To urge member societies to support Project Equality, and

4) To report in the UU WORLD, progress of implementation of the above actions no later than January 1, 1973.

The General Assembly adopted the following resolution commending the President and the Board of Trustees for actions taken in connection with the Beacon Press investigation by the Federal government.

BE IT RESOLVED; that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association endorses and supports the actions taken by President Robert West and the Board of Trustees in resisting the efforts of the Federal Government to subpoena the financial and other records of the Association and of Beacon Press, and in alerting the denomination and the nation to the serious threat to freedom of religion, of expression, and of association represented by the government's actions.

A new procedure involving information to be included in the Final Agenda was approved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association instructs the Board of Trustees to prepare for the final agenda of each General Assembly a detailed statement of actions taken on all items of business passed by the previous General Assembly.

The meeting then considered and took action on the General Resolutions appearing in the Final Agenda. The text of the General Resolutions in the form adopted together with the text of additional General Resolutions admitted for consideration and action as permitted under the Bylaws in the form adopted appear in the 1973 Directory of the Association and by this reference, these resolutions are incorporated in and made a part of these Minutes. All the said General Resolutions were adopted by more than a two-thirds majority vote.

By virtue of the votes taken at the 1971 General Assembly and the 1972 General Assembly, the Bylaws of the Association in a new codified form became effective upon the final adjournment of the 1972 General Assembly. This codification includes all changes in the Bylaws adopted by the 1972 General Assembly. In the codification matters previously covered in the Constitution of the Association are identified in the section numbering by the letter "C." Rules of the General Assembly and of the Board of Trustees which are part of the codification also became effective upon the final adjournment of the 1972 General Assembly. The said codification, including said rules in their final form appear in the 1973 Directory of the Association and said codification is by this reference made a part of these Minutes.*

During the consideration of the proposal to appoint a Commission of Review of the Constitution and Bylaws and in response to a question raised by the President of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, without formal action, the Moderator requested General Counsel to delete in the Codified Bylaws and Rules sexist references arising, for example, in the use of gender pronouns. It was understood that the Purposes of the Association, in which there is reference to "love to God and love to man," and to the "dignity of man," formal action would have to be taken if any change were to be made.

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: 678 delegates (479 lay and 168 ministerial), 5 Associate Members, 22 Board of Trustees members and 4 representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship, representing 268 churches and fellowships, 41 States and 3 Provinces.

Respectfully submitted,

F. JANE HOPKINS
Recording Secretary

* In connection with this process the General Assembly voted that all Bylaw changes and all Rules changes adopted by this 1972 General Assembly be integrated into and become a part of the codified Bylaws and Rules which were adopted by the 1971 General Assembly, with such changes in article and section numbers and such changes in diction and style as may be required and appropriate, said integration to be carried out at or as of the time of the final adjournment of this General Assembly by the Chairman of the Special Committee, which prepared the codified Bylaws, in consultation with General Counsel.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

(all adopted by at least 2/3rds majority)

HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS

WHEREAS, the International Covenants on Human Rights as adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 stress the importance of nations in upholding, protecting and extending the rights of human beings the world over; and

WHEREAS, the recognition and approval of those covenants are consistent with the libertarian concepts embodied in our Federal Constitution, Declaration of Independence and pursuits of international justice; and

WHEREAS, the social, economic, civil and political rights of individual persons and whole groups of persons are in need of acknowledgment, stimulation and expansion under world government as represented by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, the 1965 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association unanimously adopted a General Resolution displaying its concern about this matter,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the United States Senate be called upon to ratify promptly the International Conventions and Covenants on Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: particularly those on genocide; racial discrimination; education, social, and cultural rights; civil and political rights; and discrimination in education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that our government exert special leadership in support of world-wide human rights by urging other nations to ratify the conventions and covenants and by aiding all efforts to strengthen the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

GUN CONTROL

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association recommends uniform gun legislation as follows:

1. Licensing for the purchase and possession of all usable guns.
2. Gun registration holding owners legally accountable for all their guns and registrars legally accountable for privacy of records.
3. Federal, State, Provincial and local codes for responsible gun ownership regarding how they are kept, knowledge of proper use and to whom they may be transferred; and
4. Sound standards for the responsible use of guns by law enforcement agencies.
5. Restriction of ownership and possession of concealable hand guns to persons showing a specific need, such as law enforcement officers and security guards.
6. Strong legislation forbidding use of 'drop guns' by law enforcement officers.

COMMENDATION OF BEACON PRESS

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association commends the Beacon Press for its publication of *The Pentagon Papers*.

SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED EDUCATION

WHEREAS, there is a need to redefine the concept of inter-quality education in terms of the needs of students of all socioeconomic, racial, and nationality backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, our intent must be to provide quality education

for everyone and not to destroy the identity of ethnic groups by renaming schools, by replacing minority group principles or teachers, or by ignoring minority groups in curricula; and

WHEREAS, busing is not the main issue but is only one instrument which in some circumstances may be useful in bringing about quality education for all; and

WHEREAS, Blacks and other minority groups must share decision-making power (community-control) in educational and other matters affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government have responsibility for equalizing educational resources made available to all students, with provision for extra resources in cases of special need;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urge full support of all means leading to integrated quality education including the equitable distribution of resources; fully integrated staffing; curricula including the history, culture, and problems of all minorities, such as Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, Eskimos and Orientals; any necessary bus transportation whether or not across jurisdictional boundary lines; bring to the attention of member societies the continuing need for Unitarian Universalist leadership in every community if a just and democratic society is to be attained and urges that the various communities affected participate in the decision-making process in redefining quality education, examining the intent, and identifying the best instruments to be used to achieve it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association opposes President Nixon's proposed Moratorium on Student Transportation and opposes all efforts in the Congress to attach the so-called "anti-busing" amendments to the Higher Education Emergency School Assistance Act; and further opposes House Joint Resolution 620, the so-called "anti-busing" constitutional amendment.

RESOLUTION ON THE LETTUCE BOYCOTT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, ask member churches, fellowships, and constituencies in North America and abroad, to refrain from purchasing, serving, and eating iceberg lettuce unless it is clearly marked with the Black Eagle label of the United Farm Workers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this cessation in purchasing, serving, and eating of iceberg lettuce by churches, fellowships and constituencies, continue until such time as meaningful contracts are entered into between growers and the United Farm Workers Union.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the General Assembly send a delegation to Phoenix, Arizona, to meet with Cesar Chavez and express our concern over his health in fasting, and our concern for justice for farm workers.

RESOLUTION ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS, we stand ready to support the maximum possible freedom for each individual; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to support individuals who are subjected to unfair assault by others; and

WHEREAS, we support the right and freedom of any person made aware of the hazards to his personal health to smoke tobacco; and

WHEREAS, we are aware of the fact that the adverse effect of smoking is not limited to the smoker, but extends to the non-smoker whose atmosphere is polluted by the smoke; and

WHEREAS, the severity of this effect on the non-smoker has been recognized by both the Surgeon General of the United States and the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has therefore called for the banning of smoking from all places of public meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the UUA call for the banning of smoking in all closed places of public meeting, and that further, a public information program be undertaken by the denomination to make smokers aware of the physical harm done to their friends by their actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all meetings of the UUA allow time breaks of reasonable length to allow tobacco smokers to leave the place of meeting to go out and smoke if they have a compelling need to do so.

RESOLUTION ON THE 1972 U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the mining of Haiphong and six other North Vietnamese harbors, and the resumption of heavy, indiscriminate bombing of North Vietnam are acts of military aggression undertaken in the spring of 1972 by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, these military actions occur at a time when a substantial number of United States citizens are calling for the continuing and complete withdrawal of our troops from Southeast Asia, and an end to U.S. participation in the Indochina war; and

WHEREAS, this military escalation in North Vietnam on the part of the United States was initiated after the deadline for placing this resolution on the Final Agenda for the 1972 UUA General Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Eleventh Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, meeting in Dallas, Texas, June 1972, urges all U.S. Unitarian Universalists and like-minded religious liberals to responsibly and vigorously participate in the 1972 elections, especially on the national level, so as to elect Congressmen, Senators, and a President deeply committed to immediate cessation of United States acts of war, and to working for a just and humane peace in the world and in our land.